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Palestinian Affairs

3d Fatah Session Ends; Subcommittees Formed

LD0408200789 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] As is already known, Tunisia is hosting the fifth conference of the Fatah Movement. The general conference of the movement ended its third general session held today under the chairmanship of Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. A report by Faruq Qaddumi—Abu-al-Lutf—in his capacity as secretary to the Central Committee of the Fatah Movement, was debated.

At the end of this session the following subcommittees were formed by the conference: the political committee; the economic committee; the occupied homeland committee; the organizational committee; the financial committee; the drafting committee; and the impeachment committee.

Further on Congress

LD0408202489 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] The proceedings of the fifth general congress of the Fatah Movement are continuing in the Tunisian capital at the level of the committees formed by the congress yesterday. The congress was opened at 1030 yesterday at the Palace of Congress in Tunis.

The brother leader, President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali who took part in the opening ceremony together with the members of the Politburo of the Tunisian Democratic Constitutional Rally, ministers, members of the PLO Executive Committee, and members of the Central Committee of the Fatah Movement.

The fifth general congress of the Fatah Movement, which is being held 9 years after the fourth general congress held in Syria, is attended by 1,159 delegates representing the bodies, the institutions, the movement, and the popular organisations which are part of the Fatah Movement and are led by it. The congress is also attended by military people, the wounded, the released, deportees, and a number of professionals.

The congress, which is expected to last between 5 and 7 days, will examine political and organizational issues, reforms, and ways to make cadres play a more effective role and lay down the plans for the coming phase. It will examine in particular ways to develop, reinforce, and support the blessed Palestinian intifadah which is continuing and being stepped up despite the Israeli tyranny and official terrorism which have existed for over 20 years.

The first session was held after the opening ceremony and the departure of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. During that session membership was confirmed in accordance with the movement's statutes and thus the names of 1,159 delegates were read out. It turned out that 83.8 percent were present at the session and it is expected that the percentage of attendance will rise to about 90 percent, taking into account that the remaining 10 percent who have not attended are mostly in Syrian jails or are carrying out other missions in Lebanon.

At the end of the session, the Presidency which led the fourth congress resigned and a new presidency, consisting of one chairman, two vice chairman, and two speakers, was elected. Then the session was adjourned and it will resume in closed sessions.

'Text' of 'Arafat's Speech

JN0408174089 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1607 GMT 4 Aug 89

["Text" of speech by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at the opening session of the fifth Congress of the Fatah Movement at the Conference Hall in Tunis on 3 August—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: When comes the help of God, and victory, and thou dost see the people enter God's religion in crowds, celebrate the praises of thy Lord and pray for his forgiveness, for he is oft-returning in grace and mercy. [Koranic verse]

Brother struggler President Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali, our great Palestinian people on the soil of the homeland and wherever you are in exile and in the diaspora, our Arab nation throughout the Arab world, Fatah activists—the men who fired the first shot and pioneers of the Palestinian nationalist struggle in the last quarter century: I salute all of these as we meet on the good, generous, green land of Tunisia and in the lap of its generous and hospitable people, under the leadership of its struggler President brother Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who are giving living testimony to God's words: But give them preference over themselves. [Koranic verse] Yes indeed, they are altruistic for the sake of Palestine, for the sake of the Arabs.

On the anniversary of the Hijra [migration from Mecca to Al-Madinah] of the kind Arab Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, we are holding the fifth congress of Fatah, drawing all the noble meanings and huge sacrifices inherent in this day. We begin our congress against the backdrop of blessed jihad and boosted by innovative, cumulative revolutionary action that our movement and revolution, steadfastness, and intifadah [uprising] are taking.

Brothers, a quarter century has passed since Fatah initiated a new era of Palestinian nationalist struggle—a quarter century of struggle toward consolidating and

reviving the Palestinian national personality, a quarter century of unyielding resistance to all attempts that have sought to deny the existence of our people and suppress their identity and to squander their inalienable national rights.

As we look back to the capital built by our revolutionary march in terms of the sacrifices, heroic battles, and the droves of martyrs we have offered to the people, the homeland, and the Arab nation, we are not doing this to boast but to learn. Nor are we resting on our laurels; rather, we are learning lessons. Whatever pauses we make are to acquaint ourselves with an inexhaustible capacity of giving in our people and nation to promote the freedom and independence of the Palestinian homeland and Arab dignity.

Here we see fair history giving justice to the first bullet that was fired on 1 January 1965. History has not judged it to have been adventurous or foolhardy. Our revolution has been an expression of self-reliance by the Palestinian people and a pressing need to formulate the national projects that met the requirements of pan-Arab action at that stage.

Our first bullet was an expression of meeting the requirements of pan-Arab struggle, which dictates that the Palestinian people should carry the banner of defending their national existence and regain their usurped homeland—beloved Palestine—as well as to check the spread of the Zionist expansion into the body of the Arab nation.

Right from the beginning, Fatah has been at once national and pan-Arab. Fatah has never thought there was any tension or contradiction between the national and supra-national. Nor has Fatah ever thought there was any opposition between the national aspect and its interdependence with the world liberation movement. Fatah has refused, and been validated by history, to enter into futile argument over the linkage between short-term action and strategic goals. Fatah's argument has been validated by the man of history, President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, who once said that the Palestinian revolution is here to stay. We have added to his statement: The Palestinian revolution is here to stay and triumph.

And here is our revolution not only celebrating its existence and steadfastness over a quarter century but also opening up the horizons of a visible triumph through its gigantic sacrifices and its deep understanding of equilibrium between the laws of history on the one hand and the regional and international circumstances and investing the revolutionay action on the other. It was thus that our great nationalist dream was rid of the fog of the impossible and turned that which once seemed impossible into something possible and feasible. The Palestinian people have thus gained clear vision and political maturity. And so the hope became ever clearer.

And thus, the Fatah Movement has met all conditions to be a movement for all the Palestinian people. This has given it a special historic responsibility and made it shoulder burdens and carry out duties that become greater whenever the road to the independent homeland, beloved Palestine, becomes closer.

O brothers, with the humbleness of revolutionaries that we have learned throughout our long march of struggle, we should stress today that we are always required to comprehend all facts and developments of our national state of affairs regarding its relationship with the changing pan-Arab and international state of affairs so that we can employ it in the service of the objectives we seek to achieve. Fatah would not have taken this militant position and this national credibility had it not embraced the versatile national, pan-Arab, revolutionary, and humanitarian ideologies, or been a fence for national unity among the revolution's factions, forces, figures, and all the classes of our Palestinian people.

In light of this, while scoring the achievements of the Palestinian people throughout a quarter of a century, we do not believe that there is a difference or borderline between the position and role of Fatah and the struggle of our people, including all their struggler forces, trends, and factions. Our history of struggle is the history of our great people. The good deeds of our people's struggle is the history of our good deeds. While we are looking back, we inspire through the difficult tasks ahead of us all the stations of glory, sufferings, and heroism, beginning with Fatah's first bullet, and passing through the eternal al-Karamah battle, the steadfastness of the revolution against all massacres and the attempts to liquidate the revolution, the miraculous reorganization, the unique epic of Beirut, which was unprecedented in the history of the Arab-Israeli confrontation, the legendary camps' confrontation of the annihilation plan—a confrontation that has given Sabra and Shatila one of the names of the wretched and heroic humanitarian identity—the steadfastness in the camps of pride in southern Lebanon, the destruction of the Trojan horse which they have nominated to invade our fortress from inside, the anchorage of the exodus ship on the shores of national unity in Algiers, to here in Tunis, the warm Tunisian open arms, to head to the shores of the homeland to inaugurate the age of the greater, blessed, triumphant intifadah, God willing. It was the living supporter of this legendary steadfastness of the people, children, women, and men of the intifadah. The armed struggle, whose flag was hoisted by the valiant Palestinian fighter, has laid the firm foundations of the political victories throughout all the phases of our struggle. This legitimate struggle against the Israeli occupation has placed our position at the head of the struggle of the national liberation movements in the world, given our just cause a growing support and awareness, and placed a divider between the national and humanitarian resistance against occupation and usurpation on the one hand and the Israeli terrorism on the other, whose victims have always been and are still our people throughout more than half a century.

When it condemned and rejected terrorism, the PLO expressed its extreme abidance by the principles of humanitarian justice with the objective of giving prominence to the essence of the revolutionary traditions of our people's struggle and unshakable rights to the legitimate resistance against occupation of our land and the persecution of our people.

Amid this multifacated march, our people have entrenched their belief in their solid rights to freedom, repatriation, and independence. Our people have also reinforced their firm adherence to their national identity and to their rally around the PLO, the title of their existence, the framework expressing their entity, and their sole, legitimate representative in the homeland and in exile. Thus, all attempts to split their ranks, create alternatives, and seize their national, independent decisionmaking have failed. We have entrenched our slogan—neither subservient to nor affiliated with other than the will of our Palestinian people.

The ordeal and experiments experienced by our people have given them unlimited immunity and firmness and presented historical evidence that this great people—the sons of the Arab nation who are armed with its civilized heritage and who resist repression, racism, and coercion—have determined to continue the march of sacrifices until they achieve their objectives of repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of the state of Palestine on the soil of the homeland with holy Jerusalem as its capital, where the Prophet Muhammad, prayers of God be upon him, visited at night time, and the cradle of Christ, may the peace of God be upon him.

With the great blessed intifadah, our people have inaugurated a new stage of their long history. This intifadah, together with creative revolutionary momentum and the splendid revolutionary steadfastness, constitutes a turning point in the march of the conflict with the Israeli occupation. It also provides objective possibilities for the Palestinian people to realize what they could not since the 1947 partition resolution—that is, the establishment of their own independent state and the protection of their national fate from perdition and dispelling.

As we today celebrate the 20th month of the intifadah, which has entrenched its position in the conscience of the world and in the calculations of world forces as a battle for national independence waged by a people with their men, women, children, and youths—a battle to defend national existence and the future of the Palestinian generation—we today affirm in the name of the revolution and the intifadah that the people will not retreat from the road on which they are marching, that peace begins with the state of Palestine, and that peace will be made by the state of Palestine based on freedom, justice, and equality.

The intifadah has moved the world conscience, including the Jewish conscience. It has made world public opinion believe that there is no escape from achieving the Palestinian people's independence as a condition for an earnest discussion to bring about a genuine and just peace in the Middle East. The Israeli terrorist scenes have moved the human feelings of disgust and condemnation while the popular heroic steadfastness and confrontation in the face of Israeli terrorism and repression have drawn the entire world's admiration for the Palestinian defending his freedom, rights, and existence.

The Palestinian, today, is the living symbol of protecting a people's right to their own independent and free state. Thus, the Palestinian has been positioned in the human conscience.

As we appreciate public opinion in Europe and America and the Israel democratic forces for their support for the blessed intifadah, we have the right to ask the Government and President of the United States: How long will disregard for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination continue? And until when will the march of our people's pains continue? And how many more wars will the region witness to stop the bloodshed caused by the continuation of the Israeli occupation and the policy of arrogance, expansion, annihilation, and terrorism followed by the Israeli rulers under the world's sight and hearing?

The PLO has presented—through the peaceful Palestinian initiative stemming from our Palestine National Council session and the proclamation of the independence charter—the foundations of a just peace based on our inalienable national rights and international legitimacy.

While affirming today from this rostrum that the intifadah will not stop before the attainment of independence, we would also like to affirm that our peace initiative is the initiative and program of the intifadah. Besides, it is the program of the Arab nation, which reiterated its unanimous support for this program in the resolutions recently adopted at the Casablanca Arab summit.

Proceeding from the Arab and international resolutions, we reiterate today our adherence to the formula of an international Middle East peace conference and call for making serious and effective preparations for the convening of this conference, asserting at the same time that our dialogue and contacts with all the parties concerned with the conflict in the region and the world all seek to serve this process and these objectives.

The awareness of the soundness and realism of our plan for a just peace has recently grown, especially after the so-called initiative proposed by the Israeli Government exposed the real intentions of its authors regarding the obstruction of the peace process and their attempt to consecrate the occupation and the fait accompli and to continue to deceive world public opinion.

The PLO has affirmed that any phased measures must be linked, in terms of the time limit involved and the consequences envisaged, to a final solution based on the termination of the Israeli occupation, self-determination, realization of our people's independence, and a just solution of the problem of our Palestinian people's refugees within the framework of the relevant UN resolutions.

This realistic national policy has won a large-scale international support. We must repeat and affirm here our thanks and deep appreciation for all nonaligned states, for the Islamic countries, for the socialist bloc states, for the OAU, for the Asian countries, and for the European states that recognized the state of Palestine and expressed their solidarity and support for the intifadah and also for the just struggle being waged by our people under the leadership of the PLO.

Mr President, beloved brothers: From the heart of the Fatah congress, we address the great and blessed intifadah; the women of Palestine, who are holding the banners of the homeland; the men of Palestine, who are forging the future of freedom and independence; the children of Palestine, who are being brought up in the intifadah school; the Palestinian youths and their strike forces, who are the fences and shield of the people; the popular committees, the epitome of our Palestinian democracy, of our national unity, and the organized framework of our people; the Unified National Leadership, the effective and resounding voice of the PLO in the dear homeland; the steadfast heroes in the lofty Palestinian camps, villages, and cities; the detainees and prisoners held in detention centers; the prisoners jailed while fighting for freedom; and the wounded, who are wearing on their chests decorations of the homeland and freedom and say: The dawn of freedom is approaching, the hour of victory is coming, and the night of the occupation will end.

To the souls of our people's martyrs, who, one convoy after another, ascended the lofty peaks of glory and presented us with the keys of victory and forthcoming dawn, to them from the heart of the Fatah congress, to all of our righteous martyrs, headed by 'Abd-al-Fattah, Abu-Yusuf, Kamal [Nasir], Abu-Sabri, Abu-'Abid, Abu-al-Walid [Sa'd Sayil], Majid [Abu-Sharar], and the prince of martyrs among them, Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], my brother and comrade of jihad and struggle, the righteous son of Fatah, the son of Palestine, the revolution, and Fatah: What we planted on the long road of struggle with your chaste blood and the blood of all noble and beloved martyrs has now ripened into banners of freedom that will be raised for ever on the walls, mosques, and churches of our beloved Jerusalem.

To our people, who are stationed on the border of the homeland in the camps of steadfastness in Lebanon and its south, to the steadfast people in camps in Syria and Jordan and in every position of struggle: Your heroic struggle and rallying around your revolution was and will continue to be a token of repatriation and victory. To our Arab nation and its nationalist forces: We take pride in your valiant stand along the side of the intifadah of your Palestinian brothers and people in their homeland, looking forward to further backing and support for this struggle which was entrenched on the basis of the aims of our national and pan-Arab struggle. To Lebanon and the brotherly people of Lebanon: We are with you, with the unity of Lebanon—land, people, and institutions—with its security, stability, and sovereignty over its entire territory.

To you, beloved brother Zine El Abidine, to your struggling people, the people of Tunisia, all greetings, all respect, all faithfulness, and all gratitude. In the name of our people and strugglers, thank you.

Finally, to our brothers and comrades in struggle in the Palestinian revolution factions: Let us together continue the road we trod, the road of entrenched national unity, legendary steadfastness, and determination to adhere to the PLO and its resolutions and program—the road of revolution and victory.

Long live the blessed intifadah of our people. Long live the PLO, our sole and legitimate representative. Long live the Palestinian National Liberation Movement, Fatah. Long live our great Arab nation and its struggle for liberation progress. Glory to the martyrs. Dawn is coming, coming; victory is coming, coming; the state is within a stone's throw by the child of Palestine.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We will, without doubt, help our apostles and those who believe, both in this world's life and on the day when the witnesses will stand forth. Truly did God fulfill the vision of his apostle: Ye shall enter the sacred mosque, if God wills, with minds secure, heads shaved, hair cut short, and without fear. For he knew what ye knew not, and he granted besides this, a speedy victory. [Koranic verses] It is a revolution until victory.

'Arafat Not Provoked by Israeli 'Terrorism'

LD0508094589 Kuwait KUNA in English 0804 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 5 (KUNA)—English language newspaper KUWAIT TIMES said Saturday Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has refused to be provoked by Israel's acts of terrorism that were aimed at scuttling the Middle East peace.

'Arafat, the paper commented editorially, was overgenerous in reaffirming his commitment to peace through diplomacy and intifadah [uprising] when he addressed the opening of the fifth congress of his Fatah Movement in Tunis on Thursday [3 August].

KUWAIT TIMES said 'Arafat was categorical in his reassurance when he said there is no going back on the course which the Palestinian people had taken.

"Israel has not only toughened its stance against the 19-month old intifadah but has also tried to vainly reinforce its terror tactics by using various pretexts," the paper said.

It added that Yitzhaq Shamir's so-called election plan was nothing but an attempt to defuse the Palestinian uprising which is destined to end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land.

"What Shamir felt hesitant in saying [word indistinct] minister, allowed Sharon to say. Sharon who believes in defusing the uprising through acts of terror called for physical elimination of the struggle leaders, 'Arafat being on top of the hit list," the paper went on. This, said KUWAIT TIMES, "confirmed Israel's love of state-sponsored terrorism."

The paper highlighted other Israeli tactics aimed at sabotaging Mideast peace. It pointed out that Israel's kidnap of southern Lebanese Muslim leader Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and two bodyguards "was a desperate act to win Western sympathies... and to prove that Israeli terror skill was the only hope to secure the release of the Western hostages."

KUWAIT TIMES said the hostage crisis did not worsen until Israel arranged the kidnap of 'Ubayd. "The Israeli gangsterism was to alarm the world for a political gain," the paper emphasized.

"We hope the Western hostages will be released soon to the relief of their families and compatriots. We expect that those who worried about the beleagured lot (of Western hostages) would also think of the Palestinians held hostage in the occupied lands," the paper said.

Concluding, KUWAIT TIMES stressed that 'Arafat has no intention of revising his commitment to peaceful means in winning freedom for his people and he "is also living the torment of suspense that grows from occupation."

Editor's Commentary on 'Ubayd's Abduction
JN0608150689 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1030 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Commentary by politcal editor: "Snowball Two"]

[Text] Things have become more involved and entangled. It seems things were meant to turn out the way they have. Some who have become involved in the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubyad must have been privy to the plan beforehand. For others it has been an opening to find a niche for themselves in an arena swarming with all kinds of movement. Others have overreacted—so much so that they have come to be among the principal players in the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd. Things are now very entangled.

The Zionist enemy knows these facts and that the snowball is growing bigger and bigger. American aircraft carriers are leaving port around the world and heading to two specific points—the first off the Lebanese coast, where it will be possible to mount an air strike at suspected hideouts of the hostage holders, and the second at positions from which they could hit the alleged captors of the hostages. And here the name of Iran tops the list. The snowball continues to roll.

When the Zionist commondo group set off for Jibshit on the morning of the last Friday of July, did they ever think that there would be such a reaction to their deed? Certain Arab diplomatic sources answer in the affirmative and say that that was exactly what the Zionist entity had set out to achieve in full coordination with the United States—to nudge the hostage issue, which had been in the doldrums for quite a while. These sources are struck by the timing of the operation: The three-man Arab committee says it has reached a deadend in its quest for a solution to the Lebanese crisis, the Zionist enemy then mounts its terrorist abduction, and the American Navy's ships move toward our region from all sides. All these things could not have happened by coincidence. The snowball has grown bigger and bigger and under the pretext of seeking to nudge the stalemated situation and saving the lives of the hostages, some nations have become embroiled.

According to informed diplomatic sources, about 22 nations are now involved in mediatation efforts between the White House and regional powers in the large diplomatic offensive, which the American President called unprecedented. Some of those who bacame involved in this diplomatic effort did so on purely humanitarian grounds. Some meant by their involvement to anticipate the pounding of the guns of the American aircraft carriers and the strikes of their aircraft. Still others found in it an opportunity to settle scores and make gains from both sides. The snowball has grown bigger and bigger. On Friday evening, the pounding calmed downed even if the general movement did not come to a halt. The threat to carry out execution was suspended, thus providing a breather. But this was only on the surface. However, the gigantic American aircraft carriers continued their movement, and the detention of Shaykh 'Ubayd continued as did the threat to hit the alleged captors of hostages and their supporters.

In the meantime, the three-man Arab committee waited at the deadend—finding one party guilty and others not guilty. The destructive shelling in Lebanon continued, thanks to continued arms shipments to General 'Awn. And the snowball continues to grown bigger and bigger.

In the meantime, the glorious intifadah [uprising] mounts by the day and even by the hour and continues to offer new sacfirices as the Zionist iron fist squeezes harder and harder and develops its repressive tactics. The intifadah carrys on despite rising unemployment

and an economic squeeze resulting from a steep devaluation of the Jordanian dinar and the Zionist speculation against it. The snowball grows bigger and bigger, even if some may think that things are calming down a little.

We would like to make the following observations: First, the Americans are on the ready to pull the trigger, and their aircraft carriers are engaged in muscle-flexing Bush-style: Reagan acted before he thought. Second, the flexibility shown by some of the organizations that hold hostages is aimed at averting bloodshed and fathoming intentions. Third, we still have the Zionist-American enemy that has accustomed our nation to treachery. And the snowball grows bigger and bigger. We will discuss the issue further, again. God is with us, and victory is close at hand. Let us remain together on the road of liberating both [word indistinct] and man.

PLO's Milhim Comments on Hostages, Other Issues
JN0508150189 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Aug 89 pp 1, 15

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Amman—PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim has said that one of the means Israel has used to strike at the heroic intifadah [uprising] in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip is to strike the Jordanian dinar in an attempt to undermine Jordan through spreading tendentious rumors about its economy and currency. He stressed that the Palestinian people are fully aware of these unsuccessful attempts.

In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, he warned that any shock that the Jordanian dinar sustains will reflect negatively on the steadfast Palestinian citizens inside [the occupied territories] and on Jordanian citizens alike. He said that this is because all the aid that is extended to the Palestinian people, whether from its sons who are working in Jordan or outside Jordan, arrives through Jordanian banks and in Jordanian currency. Therefore, he said that the economic crisis adds further suffering to the Palestinians inside.

He expressed his confidence in the wisdom of the Jordanian officials under His Majesty King Husayn to overcome these difficulties, which are part of the overall economic situation in the world.

Milhim revealed that Israel has flooded the West Bank market with Jordanian dinars, which it has been saving and accumulating since 1967 for use at the appropriate time to weaken the dinar, which the Palestinian people inside use for their daily business.

He said that any rumors spread by Israel against any Arab state, particularly Jordan, are basically aimed at serving its interests. He added that the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories are aware of these plans and that this people, who are struggling with stones for the sake of their rights, know that they should continue to resist Israel's plans and check the occupation authorities' attempts to undermine any Arab state, whether economically, politically, or militarily.

He added that the militant and economic interests of the Palestinian citizens inside depend on their Arab brothers' support for them, particularly on the East Bank of the river. He said that if the economic situation is shaken in any Arab state, particularly Jordan, it will affect the occupied homeland. He said that every house here mutually corresponds to a house there [the West Bank], and this house supports the other within the framework of the family solidarity program, which is considered one of the clauses of the PLO's plan to support the occupied territories.

Regarding U.S. envoy John Kelly's visit to the region, Milhim said: If what Israel said was true that Kelly has come on a fact-finding mission, it is a major catastrophe because dozens of U.S. officials came before him to the region for this purpose, and we have had enough searches for the truth. The truth is very clear, and John Kelly, who was the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, knows it, especially after 6 months of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue and after the Casablanca summit, which adopted the Palestinian political program, which is supported on the Arab and international levels. Therefore, if Kelly carries with him any U.S. initiative, it should be based on this clear Palestinian-Arab political program.

Answering a question, he said: No Palestinian leader can take upon himself the responsibility of meeting officials from the ruling Likud Party in Israel except within the framework of the PLO's program.

He said: I am committed to the PLO's policy in all fields, and if the Palestinian leadership, represented by the PLO Executive Committee, decides on meetings with Israelis or non-Israelis, then I will abide by this decision. The sons of the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories also adhere to their legitimate leadership and National Council, whose resolutions approve meetings with the peaceful and progressive forces and other Israeli forces that voice the need to recognize the Palestinian state and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Regarding Israel's terrorist operation in which it abducted Shaykh 'Ubayd, Milhim said that Israel is trying to end the intifadah crisis just as it is trying to go out of the Lebanese trap. The intifadah and Lebanon are a daily war of attrition against Israel, "a daily psychological and economic attrition." Therefore, Israel is taking "hysterical actions" such as the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd, the assassination of Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], or the deportation of more than 60 Palestinian citizens. He added that Israel has used all these measures in the past, but the Palestinian struggle has remained steadfast. The question is: Is it not time for the Israeli

rulers to learn the lessons of the past and give up playing with fire? Milhim added that if the Israelis continue these policies, a disaster will befall the region in general and Israel in particular.

Regarding the U.S. hostages in Lebanon, Milhim said that the entire world, including the PLO, condemns abducting and holding hostages. Israel abducted Shaykh 'Ubayd from his house and his homeland and hold him hostage. It did not capture him during a military battle. So, what is the difference between those who abduct people in Lebanon and are exposed to condemnation and a country that execises an organized terrorism?

Asked about Iraq's call for convening an Arab summit to discuss the situation in Lebanon folowing the failure of the Arab tripartite committee, Milhim said that Iraq's call is sincere and stresses that Iraq does not maneuver on the Arab nation's basic causes. If it had not dealt with these causes seriously, Iraq would neither have achieved victory in repulsing the aggressive war nor waged the battle of domestic reconstruction.

Milhim affirmed that the failure of the tripartite committee set up by the Arab summit is grave and deserves an Arab summit, because this failure is a failure of the Arab summit in ending the Lebanese crisis. Therefore, a summit should be convened to discuss this issue. He also wondered: What is the use of the Arab summit conferences if the resolutions issued by them are a failure? He pointed out that Lebanon and its people should be protected from killing, that this issue should be dealt with more seriously, and that the "i's" should be dotted and the "t's" should be crossed.

Asked about granting Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, an entry visa to the United States and this issue's relationship to the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, Milhim said reports on U.S. decision to grant Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to the United States to enable him to deliver a speech before the United Nations came too late. The decision came 1 full year too late, and we should not view this decision as an outcome of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, because the results that the Palestinian people expect from the dialogue are not only 'Arafat's visit to the United Nations to deliver his speech, but also his participation with the Palestinian delegation's preparatory committee to prepare for the international conference. He added: Only then will the U.S. invitation to Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, be a correction of a previous mistake and of U.S. policy, making it more balanced in dealing with the Middle East issue and a beginning of a just solution to the conflict in the region.

Milhim also said that concentration should not be placed on the visa itself but on the results of 'Arafat's visit to the United States if he is granted the visa. Asked what will happen in the United States and the UN halls and if then visit will be a practical result of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, Milhim said: We do not want any Arab leader to go there and gain further support for Palestinian rights from this international organization, which we thank for its positive revolutions on the Palestine question; rather, we want the implementation of the UN resolutions, beginning with No 181 and ending with the most recent.

'Arafat Orders Halt To Killing Collaborators

JN0508113089 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Citing West Bank sources, the Lebanese magazine AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI says that Yasir 'Arafat has ordered a halt to killing those suspected of collaboration with the [Israeli] authorities, because of lack of evidence against them. The magazine cited 'Arafat as saying that all such operations must be carried out by orders of the PLO leadership alone.

The magazine added that the PLO leadership fears that terrorist threats, especially by leftist organizations, might lead to an uncontrollable situation in the territories.

Abu-Sharif Urges 'Unbiased' U.S. Dealings

NC0408215089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Tunis, 4 Aug (MENA)—Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, has said that he holds the U.S. Administration primarily responsible for pushing the Middle East peace process forward or backward.

He said it is no secret to the U.S. Administration that the abduction by Israel of the Shiite man of religion, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, is a terrorist operation on the part of a state which aims to impede current efforts to give an impetus to the peace process in the Middle East.

In a statement he gave today to a MENA correspondent in Tunis, Abu-Sharif said he expects the United States to steer its stand in the direction of peace by dealing with the parties to the Middle East dispute on an unbiased basis.

Abu-Sharif called on the U.S. Administration to adopt a clear stand before the meeting in September between U.S Secretary of State James Baker and his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze. This meeting will discuss preparations for a new superpower summit. He said the meeting will give priority to the Middle East issue over other hot regional issues. He noted that the international stand in general is exerting more pressure than ever in the direction of taking a practical and tangible step toward pushing the Middle East peace process forward.

This international stand, according to Abu-Sharif, is generally in harmony with the Palestinian stand which was expressed yesterday by the Palestinian brothers who met in occupied Jerusalem with John Kelly, assistant U.S secretary of state for Middle East affairs.

Abu-Sharif stressed that the prevailing conditions in the occupied Palestinian territories allowed no room for slackness or delay. He warned that the escalation of terrorism against the Palestinian people will trigger an explosive trend in the region, which will force Palestinians to escalate their resistance of occupation because, as he put it, the intifadah will radiate in every direction in the region. [passage omitted]

PLO Radio Says Kelly Came to 'Wrong Address'

JN0608200389 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1848 GMT 6 AUG 89

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers: By restricting his current Middle East tour to Jerusalem, Cairo, and Amman, U.S. Assistant State Secretary John Kelly surely has the wrong address. The PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinan people. John Kelly and other U.S. Administration officials cannot possibly be unaware of the PLO's weight in the equation of war and peace in the Middle East. When we repeat the dictum that the PLO is the crucial factor in the equation of the Middle East conflcit, we are not boasting or exaggeratng. Perhaps the United States knows better than any other party the centrality of the PLO in the equation of the Arab-Israeli conflict. It follows that we are bound to take any American moves on the Middle East dispute that bypass the address of the Palestinian people as maneuvers that are doomed in the same way that other such American approaches have failed.

In his current Middle East trip, John Kelly made occupied Jerusalem his first stop. Having met with Israeli officials to discuss Shamir's elections proposal, he went into conference with a number of nationalist Palestinian figures to talk about the same. Naturally, not even John Kelly himself was surprised to hear from them the answer of the PLO to Shamir's purported elections plan, namely, that we are not opposed to the principle of democratic elections but are absolutely against a political plan that fails to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and statehood—elements that are not only absent from Shamir's project but are anathema to him.

Moreover, the nationalist Palestinian figures that met with John Kelly not only reaffirmed the PLO stand on Shamir's plan but reiterated a fact that presumably the American Administration is aware of: Any U.S. political moves toward a Middle East settlement that skirts the PLO will backfire and be seen as a new American political maneuver favoring Israel and setting back the peace sought by the Arabs and Palestinians.

We are not talking here about John Kelly's present regional tour only. We take this opportunity to sound a note of caution to the U.S. Administration about the risk of going along with the Israeli illusion that it will be possible to split Palestinian national unity, exclude the PLO from the peace process, and subsequently produce an alternative leadership to negotiate with Israel. Even assuming that John Kelly's mission has no such design, not least given that there is an ongoing PLO-American dialogue, the indications do not point to good faith on the part of the United States. We wonder how the American Administration has chosen to confine its Middle East emissary's trip to Jerusalem, Cairo, and Amman, excluding the PLO's official address, when there is a public dialogue going on between the Palestinians and the Americans. We would very much like the American Administration to provide a clear, simple explanation.

Commenting on John Kelly's current tour, brother leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said the American envoy went to the wrong address. Indeed, John Kelly has gone to the wrong localities, and let us hope the U.S. Administration will grasp the significance of 'Arafat's statement. Indeed, it behooves the U.S. Administration to understand, if only to validate its professions of concern for peace in the Middle East, that peace that must proceed through the door of the PLO to the recognition of the legitimate, national rights of the Palestinian people, including the rights to repatriation, self-determination, and statehood, with Jerusalem the capital of the Palestinian state. As is well known, these demands are in full harmony with the legitimate will of the interntional community.

Fatah Dissident Abu-Musa Cited on Escalation

NC0408170989 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Colonel Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], secretary general of Fatah-the Uprising, has stressed that the Palestinian people's intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories is capable of continuing for many years regardless of the plots against it.

In an interview with AMAL magazine published today, he stressed that none of the Palestinian factions has the right to claim to be leading the intifadah. He added that the popular committees in the villages, camps, cities, and other areas are the ones leading it.

He also stressed the need to start escalatory actions and to use weapons. He added that the intifadah has succeeded in producing and developing weapons inside the occupied territories, using simple materials for this purpose.

Armed Struggle Termed 'Only Way' to Victory

JN0608183289 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1616 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers, we are not trying to give proof or evidence—that era has ended forever. We only want to make a point concerning the intifadah [uprising]—

namely, the link of the Fatah Movement to the PLO and the Palestinian revolution. We say this [passage indistinct] of this linkage and its firmness. The intifadah itself has raised Palestinian flags and pictures of the president of the state of Palestine since the 1st day of the congress. The Palestinian leaders and figures are the ones who say this. They have always stressed to U.S. envoys that if they want to talk to the Palestinians politically, they should talk to the PLO. This talk, in brief and detail, has been going on for years, and now it is the turn of Mr Kelly, the current U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, who is visiting the occupied territories.

But this is not the most important thing we want to talk about. We, in fact, want to talk about the armed struggle as one of the most important legitimate means for confronting the occupation—a means acknowledged by international norms and charters. Undoubtedly, we will not give in to the blackmail of Zionist propaganda and escape from confronting false pronouncements. We, therefore, have decided that armed struggle is a legitimate right of Palestinians until they liberate their homeland and establish their independent Palestinian state. We have also decided in principle that armed struggle is a means and not an end, and that the achievement of the inalienable Palestinian rights on the basis of a just and comprehensive solution will necessarily stop the armed struggle. Adherence to armed struggle, we have also decided, does not conflict with political struggle and by no means cancels our peaceful political initiative and our deep belief in the need to reach a just, solid, and comprehensive peace in the region.

We reject the malicious Zionist attempt to associate armed struggle with terrorism, and we know that such an attempt is aimed at sabotaging the concepts that have become principles and constants in which world public opinion believes and for which it calls. These principles have been fully adopted in the United Nations and all international organizations. We also know that this attempt will not intimidate us; indeed, it will push us toward further belief in our right to adopt armed struggle together with our political struggle. Therefore, what the Israeli newspapers described as hard-line or soft-line in the fifth Fatah general congress, calling the young members hard-liners as opposed to the flexible older members, has nothing to do with reality whatsoever. There is no hardness or flexibility as far as the armed struggle is concerned. There is deep belief and unanimity that the armed struggle continues, up to this moment and in the face of a continuing tough occupation, to be the only way leading to victory.

If the abortion of the intifadah has been an Israeli dream for more than 20 months—for the realization of which Israel has used all its methods of terrorism—the armed struggle is an older dream that Israel and the United States tried in the war of wars, namely the civil war—the invasion of the PLO and Lebanon. [sentence as heard] But we will always stress that the armed struggle is not an end but a means preceding all other means; it is the only means to confront oppression, terrorism, usurpation, and occupation. It cannot be cancelled unless its conditions, foremost of which is the achievement of the inalienable legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, are met. After this, all issues, including armed struggle, will be open for debate.

'Palestine' Agrees on Arab Summit on Lebanon

JN0508110689 Baghdad INA in English 1032 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Tunis, Aug. 5, INA—The state of Palestine announced its formal approval to hold an emergency Arab summit to discuss latest developments of the Lebanese crisis after the useless efforts exerted by the tripartite Arab committee to find a solution for the crisis.

The permanent Palestinian representative to the Arab League, Mr al-Hakam Bal'awi confirmed yesterday to INA correspondent in Tunis that the state of Palestine had submitted its formal approval to Mr Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League on Iraq's call to hold an urgent emergency Arab summit to solve the 13-year old Lebanese crisis politically.

Mr. Bal'awi said that the proposed summit should define parties responsible for the failure of the tripartite Arab committee's endeavours and set a new plan that would ensure the Lebanese right to re-build its state away from any foreign interference.

Algeria

'Analysis' Views Releasing Hostages in Lebanon

LD0608084889 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0630 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] By offering to help release the hostages in Lebanon, Algeria has begun a difficult task, a task full of dangers and open to any outcome.

One may ask: Why has Algeria accepted such a difficult task, and what are the prospects of its success?

In this short news analysis, our colleague Ibrahim Diwaj outlines the facts and features of Algeria's efforts. This will be read on his behalf by Khadija Benganna.

[Benganna] Algeria agreed to offer its help primarily for humanitarian reasons and in order to lighten the pains of the jailed and the jailer who are the victims of expansionist policies and aggression.

The Algerian people, who have suffered from such policies, have tasted all kinds of pain and torture. However, during its armed revolution of liberation, it treated its enemies, despite their arrogance, in a humanitarian way, a fact that is seldom heard by the world.

From this premise, Algeria understands more than others the psychological suffering of those who are struggling to liberate their land from Israeli forces, and that of the hostages who are in the final analysis the victims of their countries' policies.

On this occasion, pan-Arab duty impels Algeria to undertake efforts to free the hostages in Lebanon, so that the enemies of this fraternal country and the Arab motherland do not find a pretext for aggression and attack the Lebanese national resistance, which is the vanguard of freedom for the Arab motherland in its total struggle.

However, will Algeria succeed in its efforts on this occasion?

It is impossible to forecast the results, but we can assume that Algeria will not spare any effort to peacefully settle the hostage issue in Lebanon. Algeria has accustomed us—and the world is witness to that—that it is capable of resolving complex issues, even where the chances of success were extremely small. We can mention, for example, the U.S. hostages in Iran, the French hostages in Lebanon, and the hijacking of the Kuwaiti plane, al-Jabiriyyah.

Algeria's success can be attributed to its international position and its reputation—it has the respect of the states of the world—its heroic and historical struggle, and its revolutionary history. Thus, it is considered as the haven of revolutionaries in the world. Its successes can also be attributed to the skill of its diplomats and their commitment to silence and patience during negotiations; they keep the greatest distance from the limelight and the cameras.

Egypt

U.S. Envoy John Kelly Arrives in Cairo 4 Aug

NC0408181489 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] John Kelly, assistant U.S. secretary of state, arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a 3-day visit to Egypt during which he will be received by President Husni Mubarak.

The U.S. official will hold talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on developments in the Middle East region and ways to give impetus to the regional peace process, in addition to discussing bilateral relations between Egypt and the United States.

'Abd-al-Majid Comments

NC0608134889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 6 Aug (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, stressed today that Egypt's concern is giving impetus to the peace process in the Middle East and noted that the U.S. side is in constant contact with Egypt in its capacity as a partner in the peace process.

He said that his meeting today with John Kelly, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Middle East affairs, was important because Egypt was briefed on the results of his contacts in Israel with the Israeli side and with the Palestinians. He added: I was also briefed on the results of his other contacts in Sweden with the Soviet Union.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid added that Egypt underlined the principles given by President George Bush to President Husni Mubarak in Washington in April. He said that these include major principles in the U.S. direction toward peace and which are summed up in ending the occupation, the exchange of land for peace, Israel's security, and the Palestinian people's legitimate political rights. He said that Secretary of State James Baker had underlined these principles in his speech of 2 May and Kelly underlined them again today.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said that Egypt believes the declared U.S. role and principles on peace in the Middle East are "principal matters" and action must be taken to implement them and have all the parties committed to them. He added that because Israel's security and safety are needed, Israel called on to end the occupation and exchange the land for peace. He noted that his talks with

Kelly also dealt with the need to stop Israeli repressive actions in the occupied territories, stressing that Egypt considers any repressive act an obstacle to peace.

The Egyptian official also said that his talks with Kelly touched on U.S.-Palestinian contacts. He added that Egypt demanded in this respect that these U.S.-Palestinian contacts continue in order to render "their benefits more useful."

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid noted that his talks with the U.S. official also dealt with the issue of elections in the occupied territories. He said: We are waiting for Israel to present its stand "more clearly" because we have not so far received any replies to the questions and clarifications we have asked for.

Regarding the Lebanese problem, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said that his talks with Kelly today dealt with the developments in the Lebanese situation and stressed the need to put an end to the Lebanese tragedy.

Replying to a question on the future of Arab efforts on Lebanon after the Arab tripartite committee charged with tackling this problem at the behest of the extraordinary Casablanca summit has announced that its efforts have reached a dead end, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that the Arab countries must face their responsibilities and define what must be done to confront the deteriorating situation in Lebanon which is unacceptable to any of the parties. He added: We are waiting for the brother foreign ministers of the tripartite committee—Algeria, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia—to provide us with their information on the efforts made.

The Egyptian foreign minister described his 90-minute talk with John Kelly as "useful and fruitful." He said that they dealt with a number of other international issues beside the developments in the Middle East. In conclusion, he said that he considers contacts with the U.S. side to be "useful" in order to draw up a complete picture before all the parties.

Kelly Concludes Visit 6 Aug

NC0608135789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1338 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 6 Aug (MENA)—John Kelly, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Middle East affairs, left Cairo for Amman this afternoon at the end of an official 2-day visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

Papers Criticize U.S. 'Bias' Toward Israel

NC0608083689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0725 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 6 Aug (MENA)—In their editorials today, the newspapers AL-AKHBAR and AL-JUMHURIYAH call on the United States to deal justly with the heart of the Middle East problem.

The two papers warn that the United States will pay a heavy price for its bias in favor of Israel and its absolute support for and justification of all Israeli actions.

In its editorial entitled "The Only Way To Root Out Tension," AL-AKHBAR writes that the killing of American officer William Higgins and the threat to hang other hostages held in Lebanon in retaliation for Israel's abduction of a Lebanese Shiite leader are no more than a symptom of the cancer lying in the body of the Middle East. This cancer, the paper adds, is manifest in a state planted in the Middle East by the force of terrorism and international conspiracy, a state whose administration is still controlled by gangster methods although more than 40 years have passed since it was officially proclaimed.

The paper notes that the atmosphere of anxiety and tension in which U.S. President George Bush and his government lived throughout the past week, only a few months after Bush entered the White House, will keep recurring as long as Washington is unable or, at least, unwilling to deter its foster child Israel and convince it that it is not above every international law.

The paper points out that the current situation is bound to convince U.S. officials that Israel's contentiousness jeopardizes American lives and interests and that the Tel Aviv leaders do not care about these lives and interests as long as they achieve their aims.

In its editorial entitled "A Lesson in Dealing," AL-JUMHURIYAH asserts that the United States has lost much of its credibility by its continued bias in favor of Israel and that the current lesson is a golden opportunity for the U.S. Administration to adopt the right approach for dealing with the Middle East issue.

The paper says that the U.S. Administration is now sure that the appropiate way of dealing with the explosive Middle East volcano is not through apathy, bias toward Israel, or embroilment through support for its actions, but through dealing justly with the heart of the problem though an international peace conference to be attended by all parties concerned, including the PLO, to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

The paper emphasizes that the U.S. Administration can arrange such a solution and notes that in the event it succeeds in doing so, all problems, foremost among which is that of Lebanon, will be resolved.

Libya

Further Reportage on Visit of Sudan's Al-Bashir

Meets With Al-Qadhdhafi

LD0508093289 Tripoli JANA in English 0809 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 5, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—A meeting took place last night [as received] between the leader of the revolution and General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, the president of the Sudanese Revolutionary Council.

Present at the meeting were Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir and Brigadier al-Tijani Ahmed al-Tahir, member of the Sudanese revolutionary council.

'Text' of Press Statement

LD0508180389 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Al-Bayda', 5 Aug (JANA)—A press statement was issued today in al-Bayda' and Khartoum on the visit by Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] in sisterly Sudan, to the great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. This is the text:

In response to a general invitation from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great September Revolution, and as a reflection of the warm fraternal ties between the sons of the one Arab people in both countries; in consolidation of their Arab, African, and Islamic affiliation, which unify them and strengthen their efforts to achieve comprehensive Arab unity and to mobilize the Arab nation's resources in order to confront dangers facing it; in consolidation of the pillars of Arab-African cooperation and in order to give momentum to their efforts, Lt Gen 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, RCC chairman; and Brigadier General al-Tijani Ahmad al-Tahir, RCC member; paid a high-level official visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah from 2 to 5 August 1989. Lt Gen al-Bashir received a popular and official welcome which expressed the depth of the feelings of the Libyan Arab people for the Sudanese people and revolution. Lt Gen al-Bashir was received by his brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great September Revolution, and in an atmosphere filled with the sentiments of sincere Arab fraternity talks were held between them with the aim of consolidating and developing cooperation between the two sisterly countries in all fields and elevating them. Arab, African, and international issues of common interest were also discussed and there was an agreement of views concerning them as follows:

1. Both sides express their principled deep belief in comprehensive Arab unity, thus enabling it [the Arab nation] to confront all the dangers and colonialist conspiracies which face it, and declare their determination to strive to consolidate the economic and political resources of the Arab nation in order to achieve bilateral security and in order to preserve their freedom and dignity.

2. The two sides stress their firm belief in the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate right to their land of Palestine and to build an independent state led by the PLO; they reaffirm their support for the Palestinian people's active intifadah [uprising] in the occupied Arab territories.

3. The two sides support the efforts made by the United Nations to complete the steps taken to establish peace between Iraq and Iran and to implement UN Resolution 598 to achieve peace in the Arab Gulf region.

4. The two sides stress their support and backing for the struggle of the South African people against the apartheid which is being pursued by the hateful Pretoria regime; they condemn the cooperation between it [Pretoria] and the Zionist entity. They also voice their support for the OAU summit resolution, adopted at the recent conference in Addis Ababa, regarding the achievement of independence in Namibia, ensuring that general elections would be held at the date specified and safeguarding it from the South African regime's plots.

5. The Sudanese side expressed its deep satisfaction at the positive developments which have occurred in relations between the two sisterly countries of the Great Jamahiriyah and Chad, and expressed its hope that these fraternal relations will develop in a way so as to secure security and stability in this important region of Africa. The Sudanese side also expressed its readiness to carry out any role required of it to achieve this desired objective.

6. The two sides stress their interest in excluding the Mediterranean and the Horn of Africa from the arena of international conflict and to cleanse Africa of any foreign military presence.

7. The two sides express the importance of supporting international organizations, to make them more effective so that they can play their role in consolidating peace and progress for humanity.

8. The two sides assert that many of the problems and sufferings in Third World countries are the result of the colonial period which has left harmful effects in these countries. The two sides also call on the international community to look into the possibility of offering adequate compensation to erase those effects.

9. The two sides have agreed to hold regular meetings of the joint ministerial committee with a view to boosting cooperation and integration between the two countries and achieving mutual benefit and contributing to the realization of the aspirations and hopes of the Arab nation for integration and unity.

10. Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great September Revolution, expressed his esteem for the orientations and objectives of the revolution in Sudan and he stressed the readiness of the Great Jamahiriyah to support Sudan's efforts to preserve its national unity through dialogue and cooperation.

11. Lt Gen 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the RCC in fraternal Sudan, expressed his delight on seeing the gigantic achievements in the Great Jamahiriyah, achieved thanks to the great September revolution

and the Libyan Arab people. He also expressed his deepest thanks and gratitude for the warm fraternal welcome and the hospitality accorded to him and the delegation accompanying him by brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the people of the Great Jamahiriyah.

Lt Gen 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the RCC in fraternal Sudan, extended an invitation to brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great September Revolution, to visit the Republic of Sudan. Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has accepted the invitation, adding that the date of the visit will be fixed later.

Issued al-Bayda' (Libya) on 5 August 1989.

Al-Bashir Cited on Talks

EA0408193089 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], who currently visits the Libyan Jamahiriyah, said that he had informed the Libyan leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, of the present requirements of the Sudan. He said he had discussed with him the possibility of cooperation between the two countries in all fields. He further said that the Libyan leader expressed response to all that presented to him and pinpointed the identity of the objectives of the Sudanese revolution with the Libyan leadership and the aspirations of the Arab society.

The president of the RCC, Lt Gen 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, following his closed meeting with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi yesterday evening, disclosed that the meeting focused on the aspirations of the two sisterly countries. Lt Gen 'Umar al-Bashir explained to Col al-Qadhdhafi the reasons that led to the revolution in the Sudan. Col al-Qadhdhafi expressed his concern with what has been presented by Lt Gen al-Bashir about the objectives and aspirations of the Sudanese revolution, which are similar to the Libyan revolution. Lt Gen al-Bashir informed Col al-Qadhdhafi on the current Sudanese developments in addition to means of cooperation between the two countries. He said that the Libyan leader has presented Libya's experience in the fields of economy, politics, and social development.

Meanwhile, the various fields of cooperation were discussed by the delegation accompanying Lt Gen al-Bashir and their Libyan counterparts.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD0508133389 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Al-Bayda', 5 Aug (JANA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council, and the delegation accompanying him left al-Bayda' this morning at the conclusion of his official visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

Prior to his departure, Lt Gen al-Bashir made a statement to JANA in which he said: I have taken advantage of this occasion to explain the cause of the revolution in Sudan and its objectives. At the same time I offered thanks to the leader of the great al-Fatih revolution and the Armed Forces. He added that the Great Jamahiriyah has always been on the side of the Sudanese people in its political positions. [passage omitted]

Morocco

Contents of Dispatch on Lebanon Committee Denied

LD0408184289 Rabat MAP in English 1228 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Rabat, Aug. 4 (MAP)—Morocco strongly denied Thursday evening the contents of the dispatch related to the works of the Arab tripartite committee on Lebanon that was published by the French daily "LE MONDE" in its release of Aug. 3.

In a story on the works of the tripartite committee entrusted with settling the Lebanese crisis, the daily's special envoy to Beirut pointed out that "there is no doubt that since the failure of the committee's latest mission in Damascus, King Hassan II wanted to see Syria denounced and had threatened, before Saudi reticence, to do it alone. Riyadh had attempted, till the end, to make Damascus' stand more flexible, but President al-Asad had made it clear to them when he dismissed the committee's foreign ministers that he pays no attention to their denunciation."

The Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation released here Tuesday a clarification strongly denying the contents of the story and particularly the attitude attributed to King Hassan II with regard to Syria.

The Moroccan ministry described the dispatch as "wild and whimsical imaginings of the author of the story."

Sudan

Al-Bashir Reaffirms 'Readiness' for SPLA Talks

AB0408162289 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Al-Bayda', 4 Aug (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council, has reaffirmed Sudan's readiness to begin talks with Garang's movement. He said that the government's delegation is ready and is in the process of specifying the issues that will be discussed.

Commenting on the movement's statement that it is willing to start negotiations with the government, the leader of the salvation revolution told SUNA that the revolution has always made clear its interest in solving the problem of the south and negotiating with the people's movement at any time and place. He added: We have asked Arab and African states to help bring our

views closer together and to speed up the holding of a meeting between [words indistinct]. These states have already responded to the initiative.

Talks Reportedly 'Postponed'

AB0708084289 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] The peace talks between the Sudanese Government and the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] scheduled for this week in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, has been postponed. The talks will now take place on the 14th of this month. Reporters claim that the postponement is to enable the Sudanese Government to study demands of the SPLA leader, Colonel John Garang. The SPLA has announced that the chairman of the OAU, President Husni Mubarak of Egypt, and the Ethiopian leader, President Mengistu Haile Mariam, have agreed to serve as mediators at the peace talks.

Meanwhile, a special envoy of the Sudanese leader, General [rank as heard] Ibrahim Nayil Edam, has arrived in Algeria to deliver a special message to President Chadli Bendjedid. He told newsmen that the message is on events in Sudan. Gen Edam will also discuss bilateral relations with Algerian officials.

Bahrain

Foreign Minister on 'Stinger' Missiles, Iran

JN0608165189 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 5 Aug 89 pp 3, 20

[By Huda Tawfiq]

[Text] Washington—Bahrain's Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah has said that his country will keep the American "Stinger" missiles, although the contract on them expired in late June and they should have been returned to the United States. He said the subject is now closed.

AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the contract for the purchase of the missiles, which were acquired in December 1987, has been renewed. The contract provides for the United States to repurchase the missiles and transfer them back to the United States after 18 months.

The U.S. Administration had sought to convince Congress of the importance for these missiles being retained in Bahrain for political and strategic considerations and urged that legislation banning the sale of the "Stinger" to Gulf states be scrapped.

The Bahraini foreign minister said the question of the missiles is now a formality between the American Administration and Congress and the missiles will stay in Bahrain.

While in Washington, Shaykh Muhammad held talks with President Bush and congressmen on the hostage crisis, Lebanon, and the Gulf. He announced that in their upcoming meeting on 28 and 29 August, the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states will discuss Gulf developments and GCC-Iran ties within the framework of an overall reappraisal of the situation. The GCC countries are watching developments all the time, he said. We want our relations with Iran to be based on principles agreed by the GCC.

Asked about the implications of Hashemi-Rafsanjani taking over as Iran's president and the outcome of reconciliation efforts, the Bahraini minister said: The Iranians are on the verge of taking a new road, which we hope will lead to improved relations with the Gulf states. He emphasized that the GCC principles call for ideal relations with Iran, good-neighborliness, noninterference, and cooperation between the GCC member states and Iran.

We seek mutual accommodation between ourselves and Iran, but unfortunately Iran continues to launch media campaigns against certain states in the region. The door is still open for better relations with Iran, however, said Shaykh Muhammad.

Minister on 'Constructive' Change in U.S. Stand

JN0408125789 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Manama, Aug 4, (WAKH)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah has asserted that there is agreement between Bahraini and U.S. viewpoints on the need for the Gulf situation to move through the United Nations and the Security Council toward achieving peace in the region.

Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah said that the Gulf situation and the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 concern Bahrain, the Gulf Cooperation Council states, and the world's nations. He said there is a definite desire to implement all the articles of the resolution to restore peace and security to the Gulf region and not to be satisfied with a mere cease-fire.

In an interview with the Bahraini newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ published today, the Bahraini foreign minister added that during his intensive talks with U.S. President George Bush and senior U.S. officials, he found a great deal of appreciation for Bahrain, which was reflected in the talks focusing on the Gulf situation, the Middle East question, and the Lebanese situation.

The Bahraini foreign minister explained that one of the objectives of his visit to Washington was to urge U.S. officials, congressmen, journalists, and businessmen to achieve peace in the Middle East on the basis of granting the Palestinian people their full rights, especially self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil through convening an the international conference.

Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak concluded that there is a great deal of understanding in the American stand toward the Middle East in general and the Palestinian people's question in particular, especially following the brave Palestinian intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories.

He indicated that Bahrain welcomed U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's recently expressed stand on U.S. policy in the Middle East and his ideas, which we consider useful and constructive.

He stressed that Bahrain adopts the Arab cause of the Palestinian people in line with its belief in this fateful question and the resolutions and principles designated by the leaders of the Arab nation in their summits.

The Bahraini foreign minister called for supporting the the efforts of the tripartite Arab committee and urged the warring factions in Lebanon to cooperate to save the country from its plight before it is too late. He added that all Lebanon's problems stem from the absence of the Constitution and legitimate authority in that country.

He asserted that the present might be more appropriate than any other time to move toward a course of action leading to a final solution, especially as the Lebanese question is not a simple one and will be solved only when it is set on the right course.

Shaykh Mubarak said that the United States can influence many nations of the world. When it undertakes a move, other countries will join it to serve Lebanon. He added that the Lebanese problem must not continue to be neglected without any action to restore legitimacy, convene the Chamber of Deputies, and enable the Lebanese people to elect a president to carry out the desired reforms.

The Bahraini foreign minister stated that despite the influence of the strong Zionist lobby in the United States, the justice of our cause and Arab action have now become more efficient than before. This is due to the rational method of dialogue adopted by Arab action, which is based on the logic of the century and has thereby gained excellent results.

Kuwait

Daily Accuses U.S. of Conspiring To Kidnap 'Ubayd

LD0508112189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1001 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 5 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti newspaper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM Saturday charged that the United States had conspired in the Israeli kidnap of Lebanese cleric 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd to create a pretext for military action in Lebanon.

"The current hostage crisis in Lebanon points to the hand-in-glove coordination between the U.S. and Israel on everything including the Israel abduction of the Lebanese clergyman," a front-page editorial said.

Using Israel as a tool, the paper said, the Americans always look for a pretext for direct or indirect military action in total disregard of the reactions even from Washington's closest allies.

The newspaper pointed out that Washington has a bad record of military interference in the Mideast region. It recalled the 1979 aborted American action in Iran, intended to free American hostages in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

It added that the U.S. had twice intervened military [as received] in Lebanon during the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, and in 1983 in support of the flagging Lebanese Army battling opposition militias in West Beirut and mountains around the capital.

Concluding, AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM said the state of Arab disarray would always provide an invitation for foreign military interference in the region.

Foreign Minister Conveys Message to King Fahd

LD0508110189 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1004 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 5 Aug (KUNA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, the acting prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, left the country at noon today for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad will convey a verbal message from his highness the amir of the country to King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. [passage omitted]

Official Denies Country Has Floating Oil Stock

LD0508143289 Kuwait KUNA in English 1228 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 5 (KUNA)—Kuwait on Saturday denied a press report that this Gulf country had chartered five tankers to store its oil and affirmed that it had no oil stock afloat since the cessation of the Iran-Iraq war.

A senior Kuwaiti oil industry official categorically denied the report, carried by a foreign news agency which quoted shipping sources as alleging that Kuwait chartered the five tankers to store oil somewhere near the island of Mauritius and off Oman.

The official, Mansur 'Uthman al-Fraih [name as received] who is executive assistant to the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's managing director, told KUNA in a statement that such reports are designed to harm Kuwait's reputation and discredit it on the international oil market.

He stressed that after the ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war went into effect last August, Kuwait has had no oil stockpile stored in tankers.

Fraih also renewed Kuwait's commitment to its oil production quota of 1.35 million barrels per day.

Yeman Arab Republic

Armed Forces Commanders End Meeting With Salih

JN0608201289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Excerpt] The expanded meeting of the Armed Forces' commanders concluded today under the chairmanship of brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress. The meeting completed discussions on aspects of developing and organizing the Armed Forces, as well as a number of decisions and new by-laws aimed at advancing the

process of building and developing our Armed Forces to more advanced levels with a view to consolidating their defensive capabilities and the performance of their national duties and tasks.

The meeting stressed the importance of continued efforts to upgrade the technical, fighting, and administrative capabilities of the Armed Forces and security personnel so that they can always keep up with all developments in the military field and absorb all new achievements in technological and military sciences. This will translate the national aspirations of building the Armed Forces and security on firm and modern bases and embody the second aim of the immortal 26 Sebtember revolution and the contents of the National Charter. [passage omitted]

Arab League's Klibi on 'Iranian Procrastination'
JN0608115889 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] Tunis, Aug. 6, INA—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi has hailed the pioneering role of President Saddam Husayn in Iraq's development and construction after its national victory over Iran.

In statements to INA correspondent here today on the first anniversary of Iraq's victory over the Iranian aggression in 1988, Mr Klibi stressed that Iraq had made the evidence on its adherence to permanent peace through promoting development and constructing projects, which covered socio-economic and political aspects of life, and its deep commitment to inevitability of the international will in realizing peace.

The secretary general referred to willingness of the whole Arab countries to stabilize comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran in accordance with the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 for the sake of stability, cooperation and good neighbouring among the region's states.

Mr Klibi called for resumption of negotiations between Iraq and Iran and taking positive steps that would lay pillars of peace which was endangered by the Iranian procrastination aimed at stalling the negotiations.

He hoped that other articles of the 598 would be put into implementation after fighting had stopped between Iraq and Iran.

'Izzat Ibrahim Receives Mauritanian Minister
JN0508163589 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, today received Major Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba, Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. During the meeting, Maj Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba conveyed an oral message for President leader Saddam Husayn from his brother, Mauritanian President Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sidi'Ahmed Taya, dealing with bilateral relations and current developments in the region. The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the appointed Iraqi ambassador in Nouakchott; and the Mauritanian charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

President Saddam Chairs Joint Meeting 5 Aug
JN0508123089 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn chaired a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, and the Council of Ministers this morning. During the meeting which lasted more than 4 hours, a discussion was held on the projects, resolutions, and agreements listed on the agenda of the Ministerial Council of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] scheduled to be held in Baghdad on 22 August. The ACC Ministerial Council will hold that meeting to pave the way for preparing the agenda of the ACC summit conference to be convened in Sanaa next September.

Reporter Comments on Tour of Nuclear Reactor
JN0408132689 Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 26 Jul 89 pp 4, 6

[By Hasan al-'Ani]

[Text] "Trillium dioxide, hyperon, theroxine." The words buzzed around. To them, it was as easy as saying: How are you? Fine, thank you. There were more terms: "Iodine-131, technetium-99m." So, the gentleman from ALIF BA' magazine has come as a nuclear researcher. We are honored, the scientists said. I noted down some 158 technical terms. I wrote them phonetically, and each of them was almost a sentence long. I could not stand the headache.

The scene continued. I heard other terms that were difficult to digest, understand, and even pronounce. Yet the scientists exchanged them as easily as we exchange kitchen words.

Sanskritic words mixed with welcoming words came from the four scientists with the hot cells. One of them then volunteered to cool down the hot nuclear atmosphere. He joked by introducing me, an editor who left the quiet magazine atmosphere for the cauldron of radioactive isotopes, as a "nuclear researcher." I had to force a smile over this nuclear joke. Otherwise, who would guarantee that I would not be accused of being thick-blooded and of suffering from a hormone imbalance and that the remainder of my white blood cells would not be thrown into the nuclear waste storage tank?

So, what will I tell the readers of ALIF BA'? What will I write to them from this place, which buzzes with talk about neutrons, gama radiography, thyroxine-4, lightening rods, radioactivity, and MDB? Each of these technical terms needs a whole year to study, and my visit to this place lasted only 6 hours of headache and talk with four scientists who did their best to simplify these terms for me, the layman. They said: If glukohyptonite [as published] is difficult to understand, how about the simple term (dimerkeptosaksan) [as published] acid? I nodded my head in agreement before they suggested a third simpler term!

Still, I will try to write, and may God help me.

The subject, gentlemen, is the production of isotopes that are used in the field of medicine for the purpose of diagnosis and treatment. There is a special section for isotopes in the agency—the Iraqi Atomic Energy Agency. There is no need to go into much detail over the word isotopes. In short, it means radioactive elements. Since

isotopes are radioactive materials, they must react with a radioactive source to enable them to perform their great humanitarian task of diagnosing and treating certain diseases. Since this source is a "nuclear reactor," I, Hasan al-'Ani, had to begin by first paying a cordial visit to the reactor before mixing with the isotopes!

It was a kind and logical invitation, and I could not resist it.

What I feared, happened. I told myself, by way of reply to a nuclear joke with a press joke and by way of overcoming an internal fear, as the psychologists would say: My visit will be cordial, but will the reactor be cordial to me?

Of course, it was difficult to force a smile from the nuclear physicists, two of whom were representatives of the information department of the organization. That's why I kept my joke to myself. I entrusted my fate to God Almighty and accompanied them to this lofty edifice, which is sealed from all parts.

When the main door was opened, I had completed my prayers to God and asked Him to forgive me for all the mortal sins I have committed. As for what happened later, it is all recorded in the following manner:

Here was the Tammuz reactor, a struggle between reality and dream, between fear and challenge and the desire to seek knowledge. A gain was achieved and a valuable moment passed when a journalist was given the opportunity to stand face to face with the most splendid scientific achievement, which can only be approached by those who are involved in the secrets of nuclear fission and who are familiar with the hidden aspects of radiation and the importance of nuclear energy in mapping out life, progress, and development. My old concepts about nuclear fission and the pictures that passed through my mind of dismembered cities, destruction, and Hiroshima changed bit by bit and were replaced by new concepts. The receptionist, hiding behind the closed main door of the reactor, gazed at me with astonishment, wondering what this strange visitor was doing here. However, his astonishment vanished when he saw the four scientists who were with me. He rose and opened a second tightly closed door.

All five of us found ourselves in a small room resembling the room that is close to the operating theater of a hospital, where one changes clothes. Another employee welcomed us. He politely handed me a white jacket, like the ones doctors wear. I put on the jacket. From a small box, he took out a small piece of cloth knotted with a rubber band. It was a piece of white tissue, which I put over my shoe. I closely watched the four scientists, who did the same thing. One could have mistaken us for a medical team preparing for an emergency operation. The employee then carried a small tube resembling a syringe. I unconsciously touched my arm, remembering the undesired anesthesia syringe. I extended my hand cautiously to take it. I looked at the scientists, who had already taken this tube. They were looking at one of its ends, which had no pointed head. It was a tubular pen with markings on one end ranging from zero to fractions of one, two, and three at the other end with a pointer set at zero. After placing it in a pocket in my jacket, the employee said to me: You will carry this instrument as a precautionary measure. It indicates whether any radiation has affected your body. I was shaken by what he told me. Trying to conceal my fear, I asked him: Is there any possibility of radiation affecting my body? He replied with confidence: Never; the possibility is nonexistent, not even one chance in a million, but these are normal precautionary procedures.

This day did not intend to pass peacefully, I thought, trying to show maximum bravery. The nuclear scientists would be on cloud nine if they knew that the journalist was haunted by fear, but I was too "smart" to give them such ecstasy!

We were now ready. The five physicians, in their protective clothes and shoes, with radiation meters fixed on their chests, were now ready to enter the reactor—the unknown, the challenge, and the dream.

The entrance was narrow and there was a small platform on which each of us had to stop before going into a small hall leading to a steel ladder. The platform was equipped with red and green lights and a bell. If the bell rings and the green light flashes, it means your body is free from external nuclear contamination, and you are allowed to enter. If, on the other hand, the red light flashes, it means you carry in your body an old reactor releasing neutrons—an indication that you did not provide your body with means of maintenence, cooling, and safety. In this case, you will infect the Tammuz reactor with radiation, and you can only visit the nearest hospital or nuclear institute. As for us, we passed peacefully.

The five-man medical team went up a steel ladder, but a new nuclear employee went first. He carried a device like those used for blood pressure measurement in hospitals. This amperical device is also used to measure and indicate any radiation that might sneak into our bodies. These are other precautions, added to those we had on our chests.

How witty! The reactor lived on the roof. A rectangular room with buttons, drawings, and illustrative sketches on the nature of the reactor's work. [sentence as published] So, we had not yet reached the reactor. My head was full of endless terminology in the fields of physics, nuclear science, engineering, chemical reactions, and cooling. With God's blessing, another door opened, and someone said: Here is the reactor. But where was it?

I personally had imagined the reactor to be a spherical boiler 10 times as large as a big balloon, but now I only saw a number of heads distributed here and there as if they were secret bugging devices—although I have never seen a bugging device in my life. This was my first

impression, but why should I be shy? It was my opportunity to ask about every little thing; after all, I might one day build a nuclear reactor at my own expense if I obtain a piece of land. But the scientists did not allow me a chance for impossible dreams. They were talking in detail about those clever security devices that control radiation inside the reactor. If a single atom, neutron, or radiant particle escapes in search of fresh air and to avoid the boiling hot reactions in the height of summer, these devices will chase and immediately capture it. It was a security unit, or, more precisely, a number of security units, from whose control no particle of a particle can escape. But where was the reactor?

"You are standing right on the reactor," said someone suddenly, and I felt like a resting man who suddenly discovers that the tree branch on which he is leaning is nothing but the body of a snake. My seven senses stood alert, my joints felt cold, and my fingers grew numb. I quietly jumped over a glass basin, like those used for swimming. Inside the basin were silver-colored vertical and horizontal tubes immersed in pure water.

You stand right on the reactor! And I searchingly touched my head and body to make sure they were emitting no radiation. It is extremely good for one to go home radiating like a golden torch. But I was moving, asking, and regaining my assurance—unfortunately, there was nothing in my body to indicate that it was converted into a radiant element!

Here, in the spacious atmosphere in this building, which is closed on its six sides, I discovered that the reactor is not a giant boiler, but rather a beautiful artificial lake in which boats are not allowed to sail. But above all, the reactor is a world full of social and emotional relations. In this water family, suitable for raising colored fish, fertilization processes and love interactions between the neutron and the nucleous take place. There are acts of sneaking, trapping, and sometimes abnormal behavior. And there are many secrets inside the heart. Yes, the reactor has a heart, and this is its scientific name. Indeed, the heart is virtually the reactor. Among other things, I discovered that the heart is devoted to immortal love. In its compassionate bosom, fissions take place, and these generate so high a temperature that the heart cannot bear it. It is exactly like a human heart, with limited endurance for fatigue, love, and heat. It, therefore, should be calmed by water. And the scientists say, in their language, that the heat is absorbed by the salt-free water that cools the heart and the neutrons after the fissions, which produce high energy. In the basin, there are bars to control what takes place in the heart, for it might hurt itself in an overwhelming moment of love. These bars, or canals, are of two kinds: Eight horizontal ones dealing with physics, chemistry, and scientific experiments, and eight vertical ones for carrying out agricultural and industrial experiments, isotopes, and various medical issues.

The view of the glass basin, water, canals, and heart only whets your appetite. It is wonderful to sit on a chair and eat your lunch while guarded by a thousand eyes of protection apparatuses and security units. If too much love were to raise the heat of the heart so much that neither the water nor the cooling, engineering, or security systems would be able to overpower it and prevent the leakage of a radiant particle or a single neutron, then you just leave the place calmly and without any fear, because there is a specialized team to handle such situations.

We left the reactor. The employee took a final look at the radiation meter. It pointed at zero degree. On our way back, we again passed through the platform. The green light flashed, indicating that our bodies were free from radiation and communicative diseases. We took off the jackets and the fabric shoes and put them in the laundry basket, and we checked the tubular pens ourselves. It gave us safety certificates. Nevertheless, I had a headache. How did radiation leak into my body, and who will pay for the damage inflicted on me?

Hostages Discussed; Arens Notes U.S. Coordination

TA0608095689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] The Cabinet session ended in Jerusalem a short while ago. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman offers the first report on the session:

The weekly Cabinet session at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem this morning was unusually short. It featured only a brief debate on the affair of the hostages in Lebanon. The Cabinet was briefed by the defense minister, the foreign minister, and the chief of staff on the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd and the subsequent developments in regard to the release of the hostages and the POW's. Alignment Minister Gad Ya'aqobi suggested that the Cabinet make do with the briefings, and refrain from holding a debate on the matter. He reasoned that a debate might lead the Cabinet into issues that might have a detrimental effect on the negotiations, which should be left exclusively to the ministers involved: the defense minister, the foreign minister, and the vice prime minister. After the meeting, the ministers provided very few details of the session. Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said this:

[Begin recording] No extraordinary development took place. The statement issued by the defense minister is still valid, and there is nothing really new beyond that. [end recording]

Despite Peres' statement that nothing really new has happened, let us note that the atmosphere in the session was very good. Likud Minister Ehud Olmert said: I left feeling that the case is being handled very deftly. This sentiment was the general consensus among the ministers who left the hall after the meeting.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens reported on the contacts with the United States over the affair. He said: At the outbreak of the crisis, the initial reactions from the United States were not sympathetic. Yet very soon thereafter we embarked on a path of coordination and dialogue. I established a telephone link with Baker, said the foreign minister, and suggested three principles: not giving in to terrorism; affirming that the direct responsibility for the fate of the hostages lies with the abductors; and stating that Iran and Syria share full and equal responsibility for the kidnapping and the well-being of the hostages. This is the initial report on the weekly Cabinet session.

Arens: 'Nothing New' in Hostage Negotiations

TA0608145989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Dan Shilon and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Shilon] Good evening, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

[Arens] Good evening Dan.

[Shilon] Can you update us on what is happening on the hostage exchange which Israel has offered the Hizballah?

[Arens] Well, at this stage there is nothing new. We are clearly holding a trump card, therefore there might be a readiness by the other side to make an exchange—as proposed by the defense minister—in which we would be prepared to release all the Shiite detainees in our hands, including Shaykh 'Ubayd, and in return all the hostages held by the Shiites, including of course our soldiers, would be released.

[Shilon] You say it might happen. Up to this moment have we not received any real sign from the other side?

[Arens] We have not received any real sign worth talking about, but I do not think that we should have expected things to develop within hours or even days.

[Dan] There are newspaper reports that Algeria and Iran—countries with which Israel has no relations and is even in a state of war—are participating in the negotiations. Have we formed any direct contacts with these countries?

[Arens] As far as I know, at this stage there are no negotiations. I believe that negotiations can take place only under the auspices of a channel that from our point of view is 100 percent reliable, such as the International Red Cross.

[Shilon] Does the fact that as you said the trump card is in our hands and we expressed a readiness to return all the Shiite prisoners we hold, not in fact weaken our bargaining position from the start?

[Arens] No, I do not believe so. This is the type of deal that we are prepared to make, and we are waiting to see if it is acceptable to the other side.

[Shilon] Are we prepared in such a deal to return murderers who killed innocent people?

[Arens] I cannot give you information on all the Shiites in our hands, but this is the deal offered by the defense minister, and as far as I know, it is acceptable to the Cabinet, and we are prepared to implement it if the other side is ready.

[Dan] Let us turn for a moment to Israeli-U.S. relations. What in your view happened following Shaykh 'Ubayd's kidnapping? Were relations strengthened or weakened?

[Arens] I believe that in the first 24 or perhaps 48 hours there was a certain weakening in the ties, at least according to the picture presented.

[Shilon] How do you measure it?

[Arens] I will shortly give you a quantitative measure—although it is difficult to measure quantitatively—but following the first 48 hours we reached a very high level of coordination between the two countries.

[Dan] What happened in those 48 hours?

[Arens] I believe that the Americans learned that in order to serve their interests and for us to serve ours—in fact, both our interests lie in a joint front against terror—Hizballah must not be permitted to drive a wedge between the United States and Israel. That was their intention when they threatened the American hostages. We must stand united and coordinate our positions; only then do we have a chance to succeed. That is the way we have acted in recent days, and I believe that as a result we have a chance of succeeding.

[Shilon] You promised us a quantitative explanation about the change in public opinion. In the past 2 days we have read an ABC poll that does not show that.

[Arens] We have been studying the U.S. media on a weekly basis, and in recent months the index, which is a quantitative index, did not compliment us, and was generally negative. In other words, most editorials or articles appearing on the op-ed page were negative or there were more negative articles than positive ones. But in the past week the index jumped from minus 10, minus 8, as has been the case in recent months, to over 45, which I believe is a peak in the U.S. for many months.

[Shilon] Can you say that the Hizballah threat to execute the people they are holding—Americans and Israelis—has passed?

[Arens] That cannot be said. I believe that this group of people are certainly not sane. It is very difficult to predict their behavior, but I believe that the chances are now lower. I told Secretary of State Baker when I spoke to him on Friday that one of the things we have already achieved is the fact that we now know clearly that U.S. hostage Cicippio—who was held by Hizballah for 3 years without any sign of life, and we did not know whether he was alive or dead—is alive, therefore his chances of staying alive are better.

[Shilon] Does the information you have show that Colonel Higgins was executed after 'Ubayd's abduction or perhaps 1 year earlier?

[Arens] We cannot say with certainty. We and the Americans suspect that he was in fact executed a long time ago.

[Shilon] You referred to U.S. public opinion and our ability to measure quantitatively the level of popularity or U.S. readiness to identify with Israel. What is the situation when the U.S. Administration is involved? For instance, in your contacts with the State Department do you hear criticism about the operation?

[Arens] I have been in almost daily contact with James Baker, the head of the State Department pyramid, and in our first talk he voiced certain criticism about the fact that we did not coordinate with them over this action, which came as a surprise to them. But he accepted my argument that we should concentrate on the problems we are now facing. I told him that after we solve this crisis we will be happy to sit down and discuss to what extent and in which cases it is important or essential to coordinate with them before taking action and to what extent they should coordinate with us.

[Dan] Do you believe that had you coordinated the operation with them they would have approved it?

[Arens] I do not know, that is why I did not want to get involved in the details. I believe it is not the right time to get involved in the details. The issue of coordinating military operations is very complex. It is possible that when we discuss these details with them they will reach the conclusion themselves that it is preferable not to coordinate such things with them in advance.

[Shilon] Did treatment of the current crisis move our peace initiative to the sidelines in our relations with the United States?

[Arens] No, certainly not. The Government of Israel's peace initiative is an important, cardinal initiative through which we hope to advance the peace process in the region. I am prepared, however, to take a risk by saying that after a week's crisis, in which we worked together very closely with the U.S. Administration, there is a chance that relations will be even closer than before on the peace initiative.

[Shilon] Mr Arens, before ending, we heard that in today's Cabinet meeting one of the ministers expressed his concern that the Cabinet is not the correct forum to deal with crises such as the present one following Shaykh 'Ubayd's abduction. Does that sound like a proper situation to you?

[Arens] First, I do not remember that such remarks were made, and I am not prepared to be a source for information about what was said in the Cabinet session.

[Dan] But the fact is that the issue was transferred to the Inner Cabinet.

[Arens] The Inner Cabinet is in fact the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs, which is the natural forum to deal with crises of a security-diplomatic character.

[Shilon] Let us be more specific and tell you that Minister Gad Ya'aqobi was the one who said the Cabinet was not the suitable forum. I am not quoting precisely, but giving you the spirit of what he said.

[Arens] I hear what you say and am not prepared to either confirm or deny it.

[Shilon] Thank you, Foreign Minister Arens.

[Arens] Thank you.

Readiness To Negotiate With Palestinians Noted
TA0608152289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] Minister Gad Ya'aqobi says that Israel is prepared to negotiate with all the organizations holding hostages in Lebanon, including Palestinian organizations. In a news conference with foreign journalists in Jerusalem, Minister Ya'aqobi noted that in his opinion negotiations are currently under way for the exchange of prisoners and hostages and, as he phrased it, this process calls for a great deal of patience.

In reply to a question, Minister Ya'aqobi said that the Palestinian organizations with which negotiations could be held include the group of Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] who is responsible for the kidnapping of eight French and Belgian citizens.

Ministers Reiterate No Exchange Without Israelis
TA0708043639 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Israeli Cabinet members have made it plain that Israel is not prepared to exchange the Shiite cleric Shaykh 'Ubayd for anything that does not include the Israelis in Lebanon. Last night a Hizballah leader in Lebanon warned that an Israeli soldier could be killed if 'Ubayd is not released. This report from Tzvi Pantonovitz:

[Begin recording] The threat came from Husayn al-Musawi. Speaking in the eastern Lebanese city of Ba'labakk, he was quoted as saying: If it is in the interests of Islam and the oppressed of the world to kill one of the Israeli soldiers, we will do so. There has been no word from any Israeli leader on the threat, nor in the course of things should one be expected. On the face of things, this is part of the war of nerves now under way over the hostages. But, as experts point out, with the Hizballah nothing is predictable.

More specific was the offer by the Revolutionary Justice Organization, another Hizballah group, to release American Joseph Cicippio in exchange for 'Ubayd and for 450 other detainees held by Israel. The statement said the 450 must include 150 Lebanese, and the rest should be Palestinians.

Speaking to foreign correspondents last night, Cabinet Minister Ehud Olmert said a firm no to this. Israel would not free the shaykh if it did not get the three Israelis. All these public verbal exchanges do not guarantee real negotiations, but could indicate the skirmishing before the real confrontation. [passage omitted]

On the interrogation of 'Ubayd himself, Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu says the shaykh has given valuable information on the Hizballah terror network in Lebanon and on the role Iran is playing. [end recording]

Contacts Only Through 'Acceptable 3d Party'
TA0708070089 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Aug 89 pp 1, 2

[Report by the political correspondent]

[Excerpt] Israel has decided not to react to Hizballah's fourth announcement, issued last night. Immediately after the publication of the statement, which mentions trading U.S. hostage Cicippio for Shaykh 'Ubayd and Shiite and Palestinian hostages, the Foreign Ministry's senior team headed by Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu held a series of telephone consultations. It was subsequently decided that from now on Israel would respond only to an authentic Hizballah announcement conveyed via a recognized international channel, such as the International Red Cross.

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 7 August in a pages 1 and 5 report by Moti Bassok adds that "political sources in Jerusalem emphasized yesterday" that "Israel will accept the mediation of a country with which it has diplomatic relations or an international body it trusts."]

The Foreign Ministry contends that Hizballah has been issuing conflicting announcements through various sources. While the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has issued only one statement since the outbreak of the crisis, which it has been repeating all the time, Hizballah has issued four communiques over the past 3 days. The announcement issued 2 days ago contradicts the one from yesterday. Two days ago Hizballah said it would not negotiate a prisoner exchange with Israel, while yesterday it suggested a prisoner swap.

DAVAR points out that the Foreign Ministry's statement also aims at the conversion of negotiations with Hizballah from public media announcements to a process within covert diplomatic channels. At this stage no negotiations are under way between Israel and Hizballah for the release of the Israeli prisoners. Israel will agree to conduct the negotiations only through an acceptable third party. The Cabinet decided yesterday to transfer the handling of the hostage affair to the Inner Cabinet. [passage omitted]

Cooperation With West on Hostages Suggested

TA0708074189 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 7 Aug 89 p 3

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Political sources have reported that Israel has suggested cooperation with the United States, France, Britain, the FRG, Italy, and Belgium—all of which have nationals held hostage by Hizballah and other organizations in Lebanon. Foreign Ministry spokesman Alon Li'el said: "We believe cooperation will yield better results." The Foreign Ministry believes that this cooperation will increase the pressure on Iran, which supports Hizballah, and on Syria, from whose territory that organization operates.

According to the sources, Israel has agreed to inform the United States of future planned operations having a bearing on the United States. For its part, the United States has informed Israel of its intention to step up cooperation in the fight against terrorism. [passage omitted]

'Discrepancies' in Reports on Talks Embarrassing

TA0708104589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Official circles in Jerusalem are not happy with the latest statement of Minister Without Portfolio Ehud Olmert. In the past 24 hours discrepancies have appeared in the positions adopted by various Israeli politicians. Jack Katzenell reports:

The Foreign Ministry's crisis staff, which includes a representative of the Defense Ministry, has decided that Israel will not react to public declarations by Hizballah or its factions. Instead, Israel will wait for a concrete offer transmitted through a reliable channel, such as the International Red Cross. All Jerusalem will say is that Hizballah, Syria, and Iran are responsible for the lives of the hostages.

Minister Ehud Olmert broke this taboo when, in reply to a question, he reacted to the declaration by the Revolutionary Justice Organization that it was prepared to release the American hostage Joseph Cicippio if Israel releases Shaykh 'Ubayd plus 400 Shiite and Palestinian prisoners. Olmert said Israel will not release Shaykh 'Ubayd unless the Israeli soldiers are all freed.

Officials in Jerusalem note that the Revolutionary Justice Organization paid tribute, in this announcement, to the mediating role of Syria in the hostage crisis. Jerusalem sees this as a sure sign of the powerful influence Syria exerts over that faction of Hizballah.

In another development, the FRG ambassador asked the Israeli Government to include the FRG hostages in Lebanon if and when negotiations begin on an exchange. The Italian ambassador has asked Israel to keep his government posted, while the British ambassador has held an exchange of information with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

There is some embarrassment in Jerusalem over the discrepancies between the statements by different Israeli political leaders. Vice Premier Peres and Foreign Minister Arens have said no negotiations are going on. Minister Gad Ya'aqobi and the chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, have said they believe secret negotiations are going on.

No Contact With Red Cross on Prisoner Exchange

TA0508191489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Our correspondent Roni Daniyel reports that Israel has not yet been approached by the International Red Cross [IRC] about negotiations for a prisoner exchange with Hizballah. The Defense Ministry's spokesman reiterated tonight that Israel's readiness to conduct a prisoner swap remains in effect. The spokesman noted that if an approach were to be made by the IRC Israel would discuss it in a positive manner.

No 'Authoritative' Proposal

TA0608045189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] The Hizballah in Lebanon is demanding several leading Palestinian terrorists in exchange for hostages. They include the terrorist responsible for the Egged bus 405 crash, in which 16 people were killed. However, Israel says it is still waiting to receive an authoritative answer on its proposal to exchange Shaykh 'Ubayd. A Defense Ministry statement late last night said Israel is waiting for a prisoner exchange proposal transmitted through the International Red Cross [IRC]. More from Alan Ben-'Ami:

[Begin recording] The Defense Ministry statement came in response to the latest of a number of Hizballah statements which have been issued to newsmen in Lebanon since Shaykh 'Ubayd was captured by Israeli commandos just over a week ago. The latest Hizballah pronouncement said the pro-Iranian organization had no direct or indirect links to any hostages or negotiations, but then went on—somewhat contradicting this—to say that there could be no discussion of the issue before Shaykh 'Ubayd and two men captured with him are set free.

Israeli officials reiterated last night that the shaykh will only be set free as part of a prisoner exchange, and the Defense Ministry spokesman said it has no intention of responding further to every public statement or report concerning the issue.

Hizballah have shown themselves very adept in the past at using media hype and public threats to win concessions without giving anything concrete in return. They are masters at using the news media and at playing on people's emotions in order to try and pressure their opponents into hasty or ill-advised responses, said one student of Hizballah and its tactics.

Informed Israeli sources say that despite various press reports, Israel has not received any authoritative proposals regarding a prisoner exchange. The Defense Ministry spokesman said that if proposals are made via the IRC, that Israel is prepared to consider them. However, both Israeli and Western sources maintain that the IRC has not been in contact with Hizballah or transferred any proposals yet to Israel.

Defense Minister Rabin has already gone on record saying Israel is ready to allow the IRC to visit Shaykh 'Ubayd and other prisoners, provided that there be reciprocal visits to see the prisoners held captive by Hizballah. Informed sources say there has been no answer at all from Hizballah to this proposal, although such a move would seem to be a logical step in any prisoner exchange deal.

Israeli officials say they are not dismayed by the pace of developments, nor will they be pressured into changing their position or making any hasty decisions. They caution that this is only the start of what is likely to be a very long and complicated process, one which could go on for weeks or even months. The shaykh would be naive to expect a smooth or speedy conclusion of the affair. [end recording]

USSR 'Very Active' in Attempt To Settle Crisis

TA0608190189 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] The USSR has transmitted a message to Israel that it is very active in trying to settle the hostage crisis.

Our political correspondent has learned that in meetings last week with the charge d'affaires at the Soviet Embassy in Washington, Israeli Ambassador Moshe Arad was told that the USSR is in contact with various countries, including Iran and Syria, to settle the crisis. Arad was told that in the USSR view the Israeli leadership has the ability to take decisions which will prevent the development of a dangerous, uncontrollable situation.

Cabinet Urged To Adhere to Aim: Release of POW's

TA0608105289 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Aug 89 p 9

[Editorial: "A Question of Price and Patience"]

[Text] Ten days after the abduction of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd we still have no information on the whereabouts or fate of our POW's held by Hizballah. All we have are conflicting reports and declarations in what appears to be the beginning of a war of nerves. This, however, should come as no surprise to us, as similar previous cases have turned us into seasoned experts in these cruel methods. As soon as the Iranian president expressed his readiness in principle to discuss the release of the hostages, he signaled that this may only be a question of price and patience. The Iranians, who manipulate Hizballah, are crafty businessmen, guaranteed to drive the whole world out of its mind in order to extract the maximum price from Israel.

We must brace ourselves to face long and tiring negotiations, in the course of which Iran will attempt to fully exploit the complexity of the problem of U.S. and other hostages being held by Hizballah. The threats that the hostages will be hanged, which are likely to be heard over and over again, indicate the intention to drive a wedge between Israel and its friends, thereby causing the superpowers to pressure Israel into paying a heavy price to secure the well-being and release of the Western hostages, with our own POW's appearing only at the bottom of the list.

There is still a long way to go before the end of the covert negotiations, with heartless pirates on the other side. This is a war that might yet demand patience and strong nerves. Israel might find itself faced with threats, attempts to set ultimatums, external, and possibly even internal pressures—but it will have to prepare itself not to be too shaken by them, even if they come in the form of NEW YORK TIMES headlines. Israel will have to stand its ground firmly. The Cabinet will have to consider the price very carefully lest it repeat the mistakes made in the Jibril affair. It will consequently have to involve its friends, who are interested in obtaining the release of their own hostages, and demand that they also share the burden. The kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd was intended exclusively to lead to the release of our POW's. This is the goal to which the Cabinet will have to adhere, making sure that no package deal for the release of the hostages is sealed unless it includes all our prisoners, without any if's, and's, or but's.

Commentary Views Chances for Release of Troops

TA0608131789 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 6 Aug 89 p 3

[Commentary by Gay Bekhor: "As Opposed to the Foreigners, It Will Be Difficult To Release the Israelis"]

[Text] Even if some progress was presumably achieved at the end of last week on the issue of the foreign hostages in Lebanon, the road to freedom for the three Israeli prisoners is still very far away.

Both parties to these tough negotiations, Israel and Hizballah, are entrenched behind high barricades. These barricades were not erected solely for negotiation purposes. This issue is a matter of principle for both sides

and neither side will agree to compromise. The Hizballah repeatedly emphasizes that it is not willing to negotiate with Israel about the Israeli prisoners. It means what it says because the Israeli hostages constitute a "strategic asset" for Hizballah: an insurance policy against Israel and in the Lebanese jungle. Surrendering these soldiers would severely harm Hizballah itself. The abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd is of no import here, as the man does not number among Hizballah's top leaders. Mid-level activists are not in short supply.

Israel will also be hard pressed to accept Hizballah's terms, even those that pertain only to the release of the foreign hostages. These include the release of 'Abd-al-Radi Sulayman Ghanim, who recently forced a bus over a cliff on the way to Jerusalem, Shuha Bishara, who attempted to assassinate General Lahd, and additional terrorists. Israel should expect future pressure from Western countries against this background.

The kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd has brought renewed momentum to the issue of the foreign hostages, but it is doubtful it will help secure the release of the Israeli soldiers.

2 Die From Wounds; Curfew Updated

TA0708064189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] A 16-year-old resident of Rafah died of his injuries in Tel Hashomer Hospital last night. The youth had been wounded by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire during disturbances in the town on 3 August.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that an IDF probe into incidents in Jabalyah proves that the youth killed by IDF gunfire yesterday was a leading instigator of the riot. Soldiers shot a plastic bullet at him; he was injured and subsequently died of his wounds. A curfew was imposed on the Jabalyah refugee camp this morning.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 7 August adds that "Two residents of Kafr Qasim were slightly injured yesterday evening when stones were thrown at their car on the Eyal-Kefar Sava road. A stone shattered the front windshield of the car. The injured men were taken to Me'ir Hospital in Kefar Sava for treatment. Our correspondent Yafa Glick reports that a large police and Border Police presence began combing the area." Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0630 GMT on 7 August reports that "the curfew that was imposed yesterday on the Ra's al-'Ayn neighborhood in Nabulus and on that town's casbah was lifted this morning. The curfew had been imposed following the injury of an IDF soldier in a firebomb attack. The Nur al-Shams and Tulkarm refugee camps and the adjacent town of Dhannabah remain under curfew."]

Update on Incidents in Territories 4, 5 Aug

TA0608131389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Aug 89 p 1, 8

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] In scattered clashes over the weekend troops shot and wounded six Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and two in Hebron. Four of those injured were children under 13.

Refugee camps in most of the West Bank were under curfew this weekend. Palestinians believed this step was intended to avert riots during the Fatah convention in Tunis.

An Israeli car was torched yesterday as its passengers shopped in Qalqilyah. The army closed off the commercial street and the security forces are combing the area for suspects, according to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman. [passage omitted]

In a continuation of IDF-initiated raids on villages in the Gaza Strip, the military authorities Saturday imposed a curfew on Jabalyah and Tall al-Sultan, in Rafah. Palestinians reported many arrests. Tax officials escorted the troops to collect taxes from the residents. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 6 August in a page six report by Oren Kohen, Mikhal Qedem, and David Hayun states that "In Nabulus dozens of masked men wearing khaki arrived in the morning and, using handheld loudspeakers, read an announcement by the Unified National Command of the Uprising. The announcement included a list of all the people recently murdered in the town, and specified the reasons for their murder." The report adds that in Rafah "local sources claimed that the IDF closed the town's al-'Awda mosque following disturbances within the mosque", and also reported that a "bus that came to collect workers from the Gaza Strip was burned in Rafah in the afternoon, by a group of masked men who subsequently fled."

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 6 August in a report by 'Ezra Yanuv, Roni Sofer, and Ehud Rabinowitz on pages 1 and 2 reports that an IDF soldier was lightly injured in the hand in Nabulus at 2200 on Friday night when a bottle of acid was hurled at him from an alley, striking the vehicle in which he was riding."

[Also on 6 August, Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew in a report by 'Ezra Yanuv on page 7 reports that "a fire bomb was hurled at a bus carrying soldiers in Bayt Sahur. There were no casualties."]

Masa'idah Speaks on Allowing Political Parties

JN0508195989 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Interview with Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister, carried within the weekly "Topical Affairs" program, moderated by Muhammad Amin, director of Jordan Television; questions posed by Dr Kamil Abu-Jabir, former national economy minister, and Hashim Khuraysat, head of the Journalists Association, in Amman on 4 August—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Abu-Jabir] I believe that every citizen in Jordan congratulates himself on the restoration of parliamentary and constitutional life. In fact, my question includes two parts. The first part regards the concept of the government's responsibility before Parliament in the future. I would like Minister Salim to comment on this. The other issue is whether there is any intention to allow the formation of political parties until the establishment of the charter or.... [sentence incomplete as heard]

[Masa'idah] The question is clear. Regarding the authority of the council [House of Representatives], the truth is that the provisions of the Constitution govern this issue. The council is capable of posing questions to the government and, with a specific number of representatives, asking the government to introduce legislation. The basic authority concerns the House of Representatives regarding the issue of legislation, in its capacity as part of the legislative authority. There are issues that are outside the framework of law. I mean that they are outside the framework of the literal meaning of the legislation regarding the questioning of the government. If it fails to do something, it will be questioned. If a minister fails to do something, the government will question him. The government has the right to withhold confidence, and the council has the right to withhold confidence against the government or a certain minister. The fact is that the provision in the Jordanian Constitution gives a good picture regarding the council's representation of the citizen, and embodies Article 24 of the Constitution, which says that the nation is the source of authority.

Regarding the other issue, namely the establishment of political parties, I believe that it is a rough estimate because the charter has not yet been established nor has a committee been set up to formulate it. However, it is an axiom that the charter will inevitably produce political organizations after defining the complete framework of political action, which will be one of the chapters of this charter. I believe that the requests for the establishment of political parties will be approved within the limits of that charter. This is a personal opinion and a wish at the same time, God willing. Of course, this will not take place at an early time, because the charter will follow the elections, and the political organizations will follow the charter itself. [passage omitted]

Report of $1 Billion Saudi Deposit 'Not True'

JN0508060689 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Aug 89 p 1

[Excerpt] Amman—Saudi Arabia has extended a grant of $200 million to Jordan to help it tackle its economic problems, informed sources said Friday.

Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi confirmed Riyadh's assistance but refused to disclose the actual figure. "It has been confirmed that Saudi Arabia is giving us aid, but I am not at liberty to quote the figure," he told the JORDAN TIMES in a telephone interview.

However al-Nabulsi dismissed as "not true" radio reports that Saudi Arabia has deposited $1 billion with the Central Bank as an interim measure to boost the Jordanian economy.

The Saudi assistance of $200 million comes in the wake of a summit in Jeddah last week between His Majesty King Husayn and King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz in which they discussed the latest developments in the Arab and international scenes and bilateral relations as well as Jordan's economy. [passage omitted]

'Major Arab Banks' To Deposit $500 Million in CBJ

JN0508084489 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Aug 89 p 1

[Text] AL-RA'Y has learned that the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] has received $200 million from sisterly Saudi Arabia to support the Jordanian economy following His Majesty King Husayn's recent visit and his meeting with King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques. King Fahd reiterated Saudi Arabia's support for Jordan in various fields.

Responding to a question by AL-RA'Y on reports that the sum of $1 billion had been deposited at the CBJ, a responsible CBJ source said the reports were not true, adding, however, that certain amounts of money totalling $500 million will be pumped into the CBJ from major Arab banks as deposits. This, he said, would contribute toward stabilizing the dinar's exchange rate in a realistic fashion—probably not exceeding the current rate—thus putting an end to speculations.

CBJ To Provide Additional Foreign Currency

JN0508161089 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Excerpt] In the context of the new monetary policy embarked upon by the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] to stabilize the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar, the CBJ today sent a memo to commercial banks and licensed financial firms stating that, as of today, it will occasionally sell them foreign currency to meet various

needs of their customers that did not figure in the list of the commodities and goods in its memo No 166/89 sent to them on 31 July 1989 covering foodstuffs and other basic commodities.

The first sum of $16.5 million is to be sold to the banks and licensed financial firms at the rate of 815 fils to the U.S. dollar. They will have to sell it at the maximum rate of 820 fils to the dollar regardless of whether it is drawn from their foreign currency surplus or any other source. The banks and financial firms are not to charge any fees reflecting any difference with market prices. [passage omitted]

Finance Ministry To Sell Bonds in U.S. Market

JN0608162589 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Amman—The Finance Ministry has agreed to sell $20 million in bonds on the U.S. money market under the name of the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan with USAID as guarantor, to be returned as a loan to the Housing Bank, which financed housing projects for individuals with limited income. [passage omitted]

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Kelly Visits

Arrives, Makes Statement

JN0608154489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] Amman—John Kelly, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Middle East affairs, arrived in Amman today on a 2-day visit to Jordan, during which he will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials.

In a short press statement upon arrival at Amman airport today, Kelly said that he is looking forward to meeting with the Jordanian leadership, represented by His Majesty King Husayn. He described the leadership as one that plays a prominent role in all the region's affairs. He added: I am also looking forward to meeting with His Majesty King Husayn to benefit from the political experience and wisdom that I will find in this country. He said: I am honored to visit Jordan for the first time as a representative of the U.S. Government. My visit to the region falls within the framework of joint efforts to achieve peace, which is the aspiration of all the region's peoples.

He was received at the airport by Mu'tasim al-Bilbaysi, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry; the chief of protocol at the ministry; a number of Foreign Ministry officials; and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Kelly is accompanied by a number of senior U.S. State Department officials.

'Authoritative Source' on Talks

JN0608181889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Excerpts] John Kelly, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, has emphasized Jordan's vital role in the region in all fields. Kelly was speaking upon his arrival in Amman on an official visit within his Middle Eastern tour. [passage omitted]

Kelly is expected to meet with King Husayn and Prime Minister Zayd Ibn-Shakir tomorrow.

An authoritative source has stated that Jordan will reiterate to the U.S. official its firm position on the Middle East problem. Jordan is committed to the Casablanca summit resolutions that backed PLO policies. Amman also encourages the U.S.-PLO dialogue and is of the view that a solution to the Palestinian issue is impossible without the participation of the PLO in its capacity as the only qualified and authorized party to speak in the Palestinian people's name, the source added.

Kelly visited Israel and Egypt before his arrival in Amman.

Confers With King Husayn

JN0708133389 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received John Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, at al-Nadwah Palace this morning. Kelly conveyed a written message to His Majesty King Husayn from U.S. President George Bush. He also conveyed the greetings of President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker as well as their appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn's status, wisdom, experience, and continued efforts for peace and stability in the Middle East.

Kelly briefed His Majesty King Husayn on the results of his meetings with the Israeli leadership, which represents the different trends, and with the Palestinian leaders in the occupied Arab territories. He also explained in detail the U.S. move and stand toward the Palestine and Lebanese questions and the hostage problem.

His Majesty King Husayn presented Jordan's stand toward all these questions, his majesty's viewpoint on the situation in the region, the constants of the Jordanian stand, and the principles adopted by Jordan in its stands and policies to reach a peaceful, just, and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question, based on international legitimacy and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination on their national soil.

His majesty the king affirmed that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and that it is now directly shouldering its responsibilities within the framework of serious, responsible commitment represented by the political program adopted by the Palestine National Council on 19 November.

The audience was attended by Zayd Ibn-Shakir, the prime minister; 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, his majesty's political adviser; and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

AL-DUSTUR on Visit

JN0708085789 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Aug 89 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "The Required U.S. Role"]

[Text] The visit of John Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary of state, to Jordan and the talks he is holding with senior officials underline the importance of Jordan's role in the diplomatic efforts to further the peace process in the Middle East. The visit also stresses that consultations must be held with Jordan if the peace efforts are to proceed one step forward.

Perhaps these facts were on the mind of the U.S. visitor yesterday when he enthusiastically spoke about Jordan and its role and praised the Jordanian leadership and its profound wisdom and farsightedness. This reflects a good understanding by the United States of the vitality of the Jordanian role among other powers in this vital region of the world.

Undoubtedly, Jordan, which has the longest line of confrontation with Israel, fully maintains its role in any possible peace process. This is not only because Jordan is a vital factor in the geopolitics of this region, but also because of its deep-rooted relationship with the Palestine question, which has always been a national Jordanian cause dominating the pan-Arab conscience of the Jordanians and their leadership.

Perhaps it is appropriate, while reminding the U.S. guest of Jordan's role and responsibilities, to refer to the need for the U.S. Administration to reformulate its Middle East stance in response to current facts. Foremost among these facts is that it is no longer in the interest of any of the parties to the conflict in the region, including the United States itself, to let the current situation continue.

We view Mr Kelly's Middle East tour as another indication of the U.S. Administration's serious and responsible interest in the historical dispute in this region. Therefore, we hope that U.S. diplomacy will encourage the Arab and Palestinian peace initiatives, and will obstruct Israeli extremists' attempts to gain time and abort peace efforts in preparation for terminating the popular Palestinian intifadah [uprising] and perpetuating the explosive situation in the Middle East.

PNF Said To Reopen in Amman; 'Arafat To Visit

JN0708062489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Our radio has learned from an authoritative source that the Jordanian Government has decided to allow the Palestine National Fund [PNF] to resume its activities in the Jordanian capital after a 3-year interruption. PLO Leader Yasir 'Arafat is expected in Amman next week.

The decision to have the PNF resume its activities comes after the meeting between Jordanian Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir and Jawid al-Ghusayn, PNF president and PLO Executive Committee member, in Amman last week.

A responsbile Palestinian source has confirmed that 'Arafat's coming visit to Amman is linked to the return of the PNF's headquarters to Jordan. Political observers describe this as a positive political step in Jordanian-Palestinian relations, which recently entered a new stage characterized by mutual confidence after Jordan decided to disengage from the West Bank.

In July 1986, the Jordanian Government closed down 25 PLO offices, including the PNF, which can be described as the PLO's Finance Ministry. Since that date, the status of the PNF has remained obscure and its activities were carried out under the umbrella of the PLO representation. Now, the PNF will resume its administrative and financial activities from Amman. This acquires special importance in view of the fact that it is close to the main centers of activity in Jordan and the occupied territories.

King Husayn To Brief 'Arafat on Kelly Talks

JN0708081889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Amman, 7 Aug (INA)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, will begin a visit of several days to Jordan next week. Informed Palestinian sources told an INA correspondent here today that Jordan's King Husayn will meet 'Arafat to discuss the latest developments on the Palestine question and the PLO's Arab and international meetings on the Palestinian peace plan. The Palestinian sources noted that the Jordanian monarch will brief the Palestinian president on the results of his talks with John Kelly, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs.

Further Reportage on Continuing Hostage Crisis

Fadlallah: No Harm to Hostages

NC0408150089 Paris AFP in English 1444 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Beirut, Aug 4 (AFP)—The spiritual guide of Lebanon's pro-Iranian fundamentalists, Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, called here Friday for the kidnappers of foreign hostages not to harm their captives.

"We call on our oppressed brothers to be better and more humane than America," he said at Muslim weekly prayers at Bi'r al-'Abd mosque in the mainly Shiite southern suburbs of Beirut.

"We want no harm to come to the captives, so as to be in keeping with our Islamic values," Shaykh Fadlallah said. "We are sensitive to the suffering of the American people, but we expect the same from them."

"The terrorists are not only those who kidnap Westerners. Have you thought that Israel is holding tens of thousands of Palestinians, and every day kills our children in Palestine and Lebanon," he said, addressing the United States.

"What did America do for those who while only seeking to liberate their land have been detained at al-Khiyam?," a prison in an Israeli-controlled zone in south Lebanon, the Shaykh asked. "Did it pressure Israel?"

"America considers their detention to be justified, while that of the Israeli military prisoners is not? The detention of the Israeli pilot who was bombarding houses, is that a terrorist act?"

Fifteen foreign hostages, including eight U.S. nationals, are being held hostage by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

Israel has offered to exchange a Muslim cleric, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd seized July 28 in south Lebanon and other Shiite prisoners for Israeli soldiers captured in Lebanon and the hostages.

Tehran Cites Fadlallah

LD0408181889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] The unifying Friday prayers were held in the Imam Reza mosque, in the southern suburbs of Beirut, led by 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, the outstanding spiritual leader of Lebanon. Various strata of Lebanese Muslims took part in these ceremonies.

In the sermons 'Allamah Fadlallah referred to the guiding role of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni in guiding the world Muslims and his sacrifices in assisting Islam and the Muslims. He said: Just as His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, learned from the teachings of the honorable messenger, may God's blessings be upon him and his scion, we also follow in our movements the guidelines of the imam of ummah and we will use his experiences.

Then 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah referred to the issue of foreign hostages and the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, the prayer leader of Jibshit, by a commando unit of the Zionist regime, saying: The Zionist regime has accused Shaykh 'Ubayd of leading the kidnapping operation against the hostages, thereby justifying its recent terrorist actions to public opinion.

Hizballah Reinforces Positions

NC0508054289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0505 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Citing sources in Rashayya, AFP reports that Hizballah has declared a state of maximum alert in an area in the al-Biqa' plain adjacent to the security strip in southern Lebanon. The same sources pointed out that Hizballah members have recently reinforced their military positions and sent more men and ammunition to the foot of Mount Hermon.

Revolution Guards Arrive

NC0508171189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Citing political sources in West Beirut, the CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY today said that 1,300 Iranian Revolution Guards have recently arrived in the southern suburb and took new positions there. The Guards' arrival caused panic among the local population who asked for their withdrawal, fearing that their presence may trigger a new wave of violence and artillery exchanges, with Syrian blessing.

Hostages Said Transferred

NC0508081589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 Aug (MENA)—The Abu Dhabi-based newspaper AL-ITTIHAD disclosed today that a number of Western hostges held in Lebanon were transferred in the past hours from the places where they had been held in the southern suburb of Beirut to new locations as part of the measures to evade any retaliatory operation in response to the execution of American Colonel William Higgins.

Citing a Lebanese security source, whom it described as senior, the paper said that strict security measures have been taken around a number of the suburb's districts, where some of the hostages are believed to be kept.

Hizballah Issues Statement

NC0608055289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] Regarding the alleged negotiations between the Zionist entity and Hizballah, a responsible source in Hizballah has issued the following statement:

Since the international repercussions of and reactions to the Zionist terrorist entity's crime of kidnapping the imam of the township of Jibshit, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, and his two aides have placed the criminal Zionists at an impasse, this entity tried to cover up its terrorist act and great crime, which violated the safety and sovereignty of other people and showed contempt for human and international values, laws, and norms, by expressing what it called its readiness to exchange prisoners and hostages for Shaykh 'Ubayd and the Shiite detainees in the Zionist occupation prisons. This entity again spoke of a probable negotiations process with Hizballah over this issue. We affirm that Hizballah is now absolutely not concerned with the hostage issue or negotiations over it. This issue concerns only the kidnappers. Anyone who wants to can realize this and recognize the kidnappers.

Regarding the prisoners of war issue, any discussion of this issue is absolutely out of the question at present. The Zionist entity must understand that it miscalculated and that the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd closed all doors and ruled out any possibility of an exchange. Therefore, the Zionist entity must release Shaykh 'Ubayd and his two aides first and must not promise itself or public opinion that it can achieve the impossible in view of the crime it has committed.

The source added: We eagerly seek the release of all mujahidin and detainees in the Zionist enemy's prisons, be they Lebanese or Palestinians and regardless of their religions and affiliations, because we recognize that anyone detained by the Zionists belongs to the course of resistance. Inasmuch as we are concerned about the release of all Hizballah struggling mujahidin, we are even more concerned about the release of such detainees as Nidal Zallum, 'Itaf 'Alyan, and 'Abd-al-Hadi Sulayman, who are heroes of the uprising in Palestine, and Anwar Yasin and Suha Bisharah, heroes of the resistance in Lebanon. Concluding his statement, the Hizballah responsible source said: What the enemy circulates about a start of negotiations with Hizballah is a false and groundless rumor and an illusionary attempt to extricate itself from the predicament it created by committing its latest folly, the consequences of which the enemy did not consider. It is also part of a malicious Zionist plan to frustrate the morale of the Islamic and national resistance in Lebanon and the intifadah [uprising] in Palestine.

More on Statement

NC0508155389 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] At a time when the enemy's Foreign Ministry spokesman has declared that the Israeli Government has not yet received any list of the so-called Hizballah demands, Hizballah has declared that it is not concerned at all with the hostage issue or the negotiations over it, indicating that this matter concerns only the kidnappers.

A responsible source in Hizballah has stressed that any discussion of the prisoners issue is totally out of the question right now. The source indicated that the Zionist entity must understand that it miscalculated and that its abduction of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd has closed all doors and blocked any chance of an exchange [of prisoners]. Therefore, the Zionist enemy must release Shaykh 'Ubayd and his two relatives and must not vow to obtain the impossible in the light of the crime it committed.

The responsible source in Hizballah explained that the enemy's circulation of news on the beginning of a process of negotiations with Hizballah is merely a false rumor and an imaginary attempt to extricate itself from its great predicament and its promises to the world. It is also a part of a wicked Zionist plan to undermine the morale of the muhajidin of the Islamic and national resistance in Lebanon and the struggling intifadah [uprising] in Palestine.

Tehran on Statement

LD0508191689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] A statement issued by the Hizballah revolutionary movement of Lebanon today rejected participation in negotiations on an exchange of Western hostages for soldiers held captive by the Zionist regime, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, the Friday imam of Jibshit, and the other Muslims held captive in Israeli detention centers.

According to REUTER, the Hizballah revolutionary movement of Lebanon reiterated in this statement that the Zionist regime should recognize its error and that the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd has closed the door to an exchange. In this statement, it also added that the enemy is spreading malicious rumors about starting negotiations with Hizballah. The statement reiterated that Hizballah has no direct or indirect involvement with taking hostages and the negotiations for their release. The latter is of interest only to those who take hostages and they are all aware of the means to establish contacts with them.

RJO Demands 'Ubayd's Release

NC0608170089 Paris AFP in English 1648 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] Beirut, Aug 6 (AFP)—The kidnappers of American Joseph James Cicippio on Sunday [6 August] demanded the release of a Shiite shaykh, and hundreds of other Lebanese and Palestinians in return for his release.

The Revolutionary Justice Organization (RJO) demanded Israel release Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, 150 other Lebanese and 300 Palestinians from the Israeli occupied territories in return for the "immediate" release of Mr. Cicippio, the RJO said in a communique.

It also asked for those expelled from the occupied territories to be returned home.

More on RJO Demand

NC0608181189 Paris AFP in English 1800 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Beirut, Aug 6 (AFP)—[Passage omitted] The organization [Revolutionary Justice Organization]—identifying itself with a color photo of another American hostage it holds, Edward Austin Tracy—also asked for those expelled from the occupied territories to be returned home.

Fifty-six Palestinians have been expelled from the West Bank and Gaza Strip since the beginning of the 20-month uprising against Israeli occupation. [passage omitted]

A Hizballah leader said meanwhile that his organization was ready to "help" the United States in the hostage crisis and use its influence on the kidnappers if Washington's position "encourages it to do so."

"If the Americans adopt a position that encourages us to help them, we will do it," Husayn al-Musawi told reporters in Ba'labakk.

"We know certain members of the organizations holding hostages... it is possible that the kidnappers might listen to us," he added.

"The Americans (must first) stop their support of Israel and their participation in plots against the Islamic nation," he said.

Iranian Presient 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani last Friday offered to help the United States resolve the hostage crisis peacefully by opening a dialogue with Washington.

'Text' of Statement

NC0608190589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] The Revolutionary Justice Organization [RJO] has renewed its demand for the release of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, 150 other Lebanese, and 300 Palestinians, and for the return home of the Palestinian deportees from the occupied territories.

The RJO sent a hand-written statement to the newspaper AL-NAHAR this evening. The following is the text of the statement:

After the positive and flexible replies declared by the parties concerned regarding our initiative and after the encouraging regional developments, which augur a happy ending to the hostage problem, we declare practical phases for the initiative in return for the immediate release of Joseph Cicippio.

The first phase: In line with the resolutions of the Security Council and the humanitarian organizations calling for a halt to the deportation of Palestinians and for the return of the deportees during the period of the intifadah [uprising], the RJO demands the return of the deportees to their homes through southern Lebanon.

The second phase: The release of of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and 150 detainees from all the national and Islamic factions of the Lebanese resistance, as well as the release of 300 detainees from the Palestinian intifadah to be drawn equally from the Hamas organization, the Islamic Jihad Movement, and the Unified Leadership of the Intifadah. The discussion of names will begin after the approval of the other side.

The statement added: The RJO thanks all the parties that have helped diplomatic efforts to succeed, especially Syria which has expressed concern, to arrive at this point. The organization hopes that Syria will agree to negotiate with international organizations to render the initiative successful.

Concluding, the statement said: The success of the initiative could become a suitable prelude to put an end to the dramatic developments in the hostage problem. Victory for the oppressed in the march of justice and glory and immortality for the chaste martyrs of the resistance.

Al-Musawi Cited on Negotiations

NC0708082389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] At a news conference attended by a number of foreign news agency, U.S., British, and French television correspondents and by local and Gulf newspaper representatives, brother Husayn al-Musawi said the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd concerns all Muslims and the oppressed.

As we have noted, he said, the response came from organizations with no links with Hizballah, like the organization of the Oppressed on Earth and the Revolutionary Justice Organization [RJO].

He added: For us, the battle with Israel and America is and has been open before and after the Israeli act of piracy. This battle, he said, will not end until Israel is uprooted from the earth because Israel is a futile and invalid presence.

Brother Al-Musawi continued: We are against any negotiation, even indirectly, with the [Israeli] enemy, even if Israel succeeds in kidnapping all Hizballah leaders.

On the fate of U.S. Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins, he said: We have no information to confirm or deny his execution. However, he said, we support the execution of this American spy because Washington bears the responsibility for the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd. America is executing Muslims every day directly and indirectly, through Israel, [Iraqi President] Saddam, and Michel 'Awn. He continued: When the Americans halt their support for Israel, we will be ready to change our stance. He called on the United States and all Western countries, as long as they are unable to establish balanced relations with us to protect their interests, to be neutral in connection with the ongoing struggle between the Arabs and Israel, and to halt their support for Israel.

Brother al-Musawi denied the existance of any relations or communication with the RJO.

Commenting on U.S threats, he said: As for the Americans, they tried their luck in Lebanon in the past. If there are rational people in the Bush administration, they have to stay away from military options because their luck will not be better this time. He added: We believe that their threats are empty.

On Israel's objectives in kidnapping Shaykh 'Ubayd, Brother al-Musawi said: Israel had been seeking to initiate negotiations with Hizballah to exchange the hostages, the prisoners, and the detained persons. However, he said, as far as Israel is concerned, the only solution is our weapons. He asserted that the response to Israel's acts will be joint Amal-Hizballah operations.

Further on Al-Musawi Remarks

NC0608200689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 06 Aug 89

[Text] REUTER has cited Hizballah official Husayn al-Musawi as having said that Hizballah is prepared to kill a detained Israeli soldier if Israel does not release Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubyad. Al-Musawi added: If the killing of an Israeli soldier is in the interest of Islam and those he called the oppressed, we will do so.

Al-Tufayli Rejects Negotiations

LD0608180589 Hamburg DPA in German 1234 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Beirut/Jerusalam (DPA)—The Lebanese extremist organization Hizballah today renewed its demand for the immediate and uncorditional release of the Shiite leader Shaykh 'Ubayd, who was abducted by Israel. In an interview circulated in Beirut, Hizballah spokesman Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli also rejects once again any direct or incorrect communications with Israel on a possible exchange of hostages.

"We are not seeking any dialogue with Israel on the release of Shaykh 'Ubayd," the spokesman said in an interview. [passage omitted]

More on Al-Tufayli Statements

NC0708075189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli held a news conference in the Hizballah educational mobilization headquarters in Bi'r al-'Abd yesterday. It was attended by local, foreign, and international correspondents. At the conference, Shaykh al-Tufayli touched on various developments at the local and regional levels, as well as on the latest world developments.

His eminence said: We are not holding any hostages, and we have nothing to do with them. He added: We are not about to negotiate on the issue of Shaykh 'Ubayd, and we have no plans to negotiate about him.

Al-Tufayli said: We believe that Israel's crime of kidnapping Shaykh 'Ubayd can in no way be compared to the detention of Israeli prisoners who were launching an aggressive operation against a Muslim people. Therefore, he added, we are not contemplating negotiations with Israel. Shaykh 'Ubayd is a Muslim scholar whose dignity and home were violated. He was kidnapped from his home, and he must return there, he said.

On the steps which will be taken by the [Hizballah] party, particularly now that it has been over 1 week since the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd, his eminence said: We have many alternatives and methods which will be announced at the proper time.

Shaykh al-Tufayli said: There is no mediation or middleman between us and the Israelis, and we are not about to engage in any dialogue with Israel on Shaykh 'Ubayd's release. He added: We are ready to face all possibilities. The U.S naval movements and Israeli threats hearten the mujahidin because they will have taken the right course to defend their rights and to fight injustice and tyrants.

His eminence ruled out the possibility of a U.S strike against Iran. While believing that Israel may launch raids, he ruled out the possibility of fresh Israeli devastation because, as he put it, the Israelis learned their lesson in 1982 and paid dearly.

His eminence affirmed that we seek to respond to Israel's act in the battlefields. He emphasized that the battle will continue and that we will fight Israel in the various media and military fields.

Shaykh al-Tufayli noted that Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani had told the Americans that the issue of the hostages can be resolved through channels other than force. He noted that Hizballah has nothing to do with the hostages, negotiations, or detaining people. He said: We

are interested in releasing all the Lebanese and Palestinians who have been treated unjustly, in the framework of the higher interests and according to our established principles.

Shaykh al-Tufayli asserted that Hizballah has no red lines, adding: We are interested in fighting and in defense. He said: We are ready for full and active participation in any military operation to defeat 'Awn and his associates and those who are cooperating with [Iraqi President] Saddam Husayn and Israel. As for the shelling [as heard], he said, we are not convinced of it because it does not produce a practical result.

In conclusion, Shaykh al-Tufayli called on all Muslim and nationalist powers to engage in joint action to deal a blow to the military machine of 'Awn and the Lebanese Forces. He said: We believe that this is the only possible way to dissuade 'Awn from his injustice and to make him abandon the aggressive slogans he raises in Muslim areas.

Shaykhs Qabalan, Sha'ban Cited

LD0508121789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan, the Ja'fari mufti of Lebanon, yesterday in Friday prayer sermons deivered in the southern suburbs of Beirut said: The withdrawal of the Zionist regime's forces from the Lebanon would be the best solution to the problem of foreign hostages.

Stressing the [need] to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425 in south Lebanon, he demanded the immediate release of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and other Muslim strugglers imprisoned by the Zionist regime.

Meanwhile, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, the leader of Lebanese Islamic Tawhid Movement, in Friday prayer sermons delivered in Tripoli, invited the Muslims to break with colonial ties and conventions. He said: Rather than obeying God and his prophet, the reactionary Arab regimes have declared war against Islam by submitting to the enemies of God and humanity. The Iraqi regime which, by fully supporting the Maronite army, has taken up arms against the Muslims.

Referring to the mobilization of the U.S. Navy in the region, he added: The U.S. objective is to help in the Zionist regime's and that regime's agents' elimination of the Islamic movement in Lebanon.

Birri on Release of Hostages

NC0608144589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1425 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] Following his meeting in Damascus today with UN envoy Marrack Goulding, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri said that he sees no immediate possibility for the release of the Israeli soldiers and the Western hostages. He added: The problem in Lebanon is a general one, and to end the hostages' problem, we must work to solve the Lebanese problem and change Lebanon's regime.

Birri also said that he had been working to release Higgins and had a 60-percent chance of success before Israel abducted Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd.

Goulding-Hizballah Talks Noted

LD0408183489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] The assistant UN secretary general met today with officials from the Lebanese revolutionary Hizballah movement. He condemned the abduction of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, the Friday imam of Jibshit, by the Zionist regime's commandos.

According to a Central News Unit report, at this meeting—which took place at the headquarters of the revolutionary Hizballah movement in the southern district of Beirut—the assistant UN secretary general expressed hope that the Jibshit Friday imam would soon be released.

Further on Talks

LD0508193189 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] UN Under Secretary Marrack Goulding, along with the official spokesman of the peacekeeping forces stationed in southern Lebanon and the political adviser of those forces met and conferred with members of Hizballah's political office at the command headquarters of the Lebanese Hizballah revolutionary movement in Beirut yesterday.

At the meeting, at which aspects of the abduction of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd by the Zionist regime and the local and international reaction to that terrorist operation were discussed, leaders of the Hizballah revolutionary movement referred to U.S. financial assistance for the regime occupying Jerusalem and its masking of that regime's crimes, and described the United States as a partner to Israel's crimes and attacks.

Marrack Goulding, for his part, stressed that the UN efforts have the aim of ending Israel's occupation of Lebanon and described the Zionist regime's actions as a violation of Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity. He described the UN stance with regard to the right of nations to resist the occupation of their territory, and said that that is considered to be a justified action. He stressed: The United Nations has condemned the operation of kidnapping Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and the UN secretary general has asked that Israel release him without any conditions.

Goulding Meets Al-Huss, 'Awn

LD0508181189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] UN Under Secretary Marrack Goulding held separate meetings with Lebanese Prime Minister Salim al-Huss and Michel 'Awn, the head of the military and illegitimate government of Lebanon, on the issue of the hostages.

According to the IRNA report Maronite-Lebanese priest Khalil Abu-Nadir met 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, the prominent Lebanese cleric, today on behalf of Pope John Paul II, the leader of the world's Catholics. Abu-Nadir submitted the world's Catholic leader's message to Fadlallah. The issue of the hostages was discussed in this meeting.

More on Meeting With 'Awn

NC0508103389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Excerpts] The meeting between Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn and UN Assistant Secretary General Marrack Goulding ended at 1050 today. Foreign Ministry Secretary General Faruq Abu-al-Lama' also attended the meeting. According to Presidential Palace sources, the discussion during the meeting focused on the hostage issue. Gen 'Awn told Goulding that the issues of terrorism and the occupation are linked. He explained that the hostage issue is a part of the larger terrorism prevalent in Lebanese territory as a result of the Syrian occupation. He also stressed that there would have been no terrorism had there been no Syrian occupation of Lebanon. He pointed out that the terrorism that disturbs the West must be seen through the Syrian occupation of Lebanon. He also said that it is impossible to destroy the roots of extremism except by ending the Syrian occupation of Lebanon. He noted that all forces that carry out terrorism in Lebanon are tools and fronts the terrorist Syrian regime uses for political blackmail. No one can be kidnapped in Lebanon without Syria's knowledge, planning, or approval. Moreover, every maneuver that results in the release of any hostage is aimed at blackmail. He expressed the Lebanese Government's readiness to cooperate in all areas and use all available resources to help end terrorism.

After the meeting, Goulding said: Gen 'Awn gave me news about Higgins that I cannot divulge. I have not received any tangible evidence about Higgin's death, he said, and added that Algeria is trying to play an effective role through its ambassador to resolve the hostage issue. Goulding added: I will request the Syrians to share with me any information they may have about Colonel Higgins. I will request their support in this issue and in the hostage issue in general. He said that the nature of this problem requires a solution through quiet diplomacy. [passage omitted]

After Goulding left the Presidential Palace, he went to West Beirut, where he met with Dr Salim al-Huss. He will later leave for Damascus.

Goulding Mission Termed 'Failure'

LD0708115189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1143 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Beirut, Aug 7 (KUNA)—A U.N. envoy declared here Monday his failure to reach an agreement to free the Western hostages in Lebanon.

U.N. Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs Marrack Goulding told reporters, following a meeting with Lebanese Acting Premier Dr. Salim al-Huss, that he also failed to obtain body of the American hostage Col. William Higgins who was reportedly hanged to death by his abductors.

Algerian Diplomat Acts as Intermediary in Crisis

LD0408200889 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Excerpt] There have been intense diplomatic efforts to settle the hostages affair in Lebanon. Algeria is among the most active intermediaries. Its ambassador met today Shaykh Fadlallah, the spiritual guide of Hizballah, with whom he discussed the latest developments of the issue. The Algerian diplomat had earlier met the UN deputy secretary general. Following the talks, the Algerian diplomat said, I quote, Mr Goulding requested our help in his mission and we informed him of our total readiness to help the UN in all humanitarian issues, be they Western or Arab and Muslim hostages, end quote. [passage omitted]

Algerian Envoy Cited

NC0508093089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0855 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Citing Algerian Ambassador in Beirut Khaldi Hasnaoui [name as heard], REUTER reports that the hostage issue is beginning to ease. He said that the election of Hashemi-Rafsanjani as president in Iran will help to ease the hostage issue. He said that a team of Algerian politicians and intelligence men has been entrusted with wide powers by the Algerian Government to negotiate with the Shiite extremists. The team will contact the parties that hold the hostages, he said, adding that he expected that the team will visit Syria and Iran.

U.S., Iran Reportedly 'Exchange' Letters

JN0608160689 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 5 Aug 89 p 1

[Text] The U.S. Government has, over the past few days, exchanged a number of letters with the Iranian Government over the hostages held in Lebanon to explore whether Tehran can help obtain their release, AL-ITTIHAD has learned from American sources. The

contacts between Washington and Tehran, the sources add, have been expanded to include mediators in addition to the Swedish Government, which looks after American interests in Iran.

Meanwhile, a senior Lebanese security source told AL-ITTIHAD that in the past few hours, a number of the hostages have been relocated from Beirut's southern suburb as a precaution against retaliatory action for the execution of Colonel Higgins.

U.S. 'Knew' 'Ubayd Not Connected to Hostages

LD0508132789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Following the Zionist abduction of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, the Friday prayer leader of the township of Jibshit in Lebanon, Shaykh Mahir Hammud, a member of the Lebanese Muslim 'ulema, called the reaction of Muslims an important victory for Muslims. The Muslim reaction forced the Zionist regime to admit to the role of the 'ulema and the impact of Friday prayers among Muslims, which once against demonstrated the unity of Muslims.

He stressed that the United States and the Zionist regime knew well that Shaykh 'Ubayd had no connection with foreign hostages in Lebanon. His only role was to invite the people of southern Lebanon to struggle in jihad against the Jerusalem occupying regime.

Kolotusha Says USSR Helping in Hostage Issue

NC0508173289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha said today that the contacts being made to find a political solution to the hostage issue have reaped some progress. He noted that there is considerable hope that a political solution will be found. He stated that the USSR, at the request of the United States, is making efforts with some local, regional, and international parties in order to help find a solution to the hostage crisis. Kolotusha said what is required is that all concerned parties exercise self-restraint.

Al-Shar' Confers With UN's Marrack Goulding

JN0608124089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] Faruq al-Shar', Syrian minister of foreign affairs, received Marrack Goulding, UN Under Secretary General for political affairs, this morning. The meeting was attended by Major General 'Adnan Tayyarah and Dr Hani Habib, director of the organizations department. Talks centered on Goulding's task of discovering the fate of Colonel William Higgins, an employee of the United Nations, preventing any harm to the other hostages, and discussing ways to rsolve the overall problem of the hostages.

Goulding expressed the UN secretary general's thanks to Syria for its efforts to prevent harm to the other hostages. He also reiterated the UN secretary general's condemnation of Israel's abduction of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd. He also said that the UN secretary general called for the immediate and unconditional release of him and his comrade and hoped that Syria would continue its efforts to find a solution to the problem of the hostages.

For his part, the foreign minister stressed Syria's interest, under President Hafiz al-Asad, in the fate of all the hostages, and said Syria will continue to help solve the problem of the hostages out of humanitarian considerations. He also stressed that finding appropriate circumstances to solve this problem depends on the United States and its method of dealing with it.

Khaddam Receives Lebanon s al-Husayni, al-Huss

JN0508131189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, and Salim al-Huss, chairman of the Lebanese Council of Ministers, at 1100 today. The meeting was attended by Faruq al-Shar', minister of foreign affairs, and Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs. During the meeting, they discussed the situation in Lebanon.

Al-Shar' Sends Message to Arab Committee

JN0508191689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today sent a message to the foreign ministers of the countries of the Arab tripartite committee, which was entrusted with the task of implementing the Casablanca summit resolution on Lebanon. The message was handed over to the accredited heads of the Algerian, Saudi, and Moroccan delegations in Damascus.

South Yemen's Al-'Attas Telephones Al-Asad

JN0608175389 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad the day before yesterday [4 August] received a telephone call from Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, during which they talked about some Arab issues.

Paper Urges Condemnation of Israeli 'Terrorism'

JN0608090089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 6 Aug 89

[From the press review]

[Text] In one of its commentaries, the newspaper TISHRIN deals with the condemnation of Israeli terrorism and indicates that analysts and observers were unanimous that Israel was about to cause the situation in the region to explode and that had it not been for the intensive political and diplomatic efforts that have been made and continue to be made, the consequences would have been pernicious; such consequences would have reflected negatively on peace efforts. Israel is pursuing terrorism as an official policy on a daily basis inside and outside the occupied Arab territories.

In its commentary, TISHRIN affirms that the terrorist, repressive, and destructive policies being pursued by Israel in the region have begun to threaten the interests of many countries. The paper adds: These policies are about to drag these countries into conflicts they do not want to get involved in. Hence, condemnation of the Israeli terrorism has become a pressing demand on the international level.

Afghanistan

USSR's Eduard Shevardnadze Arrives in Kabul

LD0608090289 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0830 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze has arrived in the Afghan capital. He was met at Kabul International Airport by Keshtmand, member of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Afghan Council of Ministers Executive Committee; by Wakil, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and Afghan foreign minister; and by other republic party and state figures.

Discusses Ties With Najibullah

LD0608164289 Kabul Domestic Servie in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] President of Afghanistan Esteemed Najibullah, this morning and this afternoon [6 August] carried out a series of meetings with Eduard Shevardnadze, foreign affairs minister of the USSR. During these meetings talks were held on topics of mutual interest by both countries in a climate of friendship and understanding. According to another report foreign affairs minister of the USSR Eduard Shevardnadze arrived in Kabul this morning as head of a delegation on a working visit to the Republic of Afghanistan. Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers; 'Abdul Wakil, foreign affairs minister; Major General Shahnawaz Tanay, defense minister; Lieutenant General Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi, state security minister; and Lieutenant General Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, interior minister, welcomed him and his delegation at Kabul International Airport.

Hekmatyar Says Mujahidin Liberated 230 Districts

BK0508112889 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] The foreign minister of the interim government of Afghan mujahidin, Mr Golbuddin Hekmatyar, has said that 230 districts and subdistricts in Afghanistan have been liberated by the mujahidin.

Addressing a news conference in Peshawar today, he said that only 25 provincial capitals and 20 districts are under the control of the Kabul regime. Mr Hekmatyar, who recently visited eight provinces of Afghanistan liberated by the mujahidin, said the Kabul regime has no (?reach) in the people and its army has lost the capability to resist the mujahidin attacks. It is fed up with war in Afghanistan. He said the morale of the mujahidin is very high.

Criticizes Jamiyat Group, Mojadeddi

BK0508134089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1338 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Aug 5 (AFP)—Golbuddin Hekmatyar, head of the Afghan fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami faction, Saturday accused the Jamiyat-e Eslami faction of "exploiting" rivalry between the two parties' guerrillas last month.

Thirty mujahidin rebels of the relatively moderate Jamiyat-e faction, including six commanders, were ambushed and killed near Tangi Farkhar in northeastern Takhar Province by Hezb-e commander Sayyed Jamal on July 9, according to Jamiyat-e sources.

One week ago, Jamiyat-e leader Burhanuddin Rabbani called for suspension of Hezb-e's membership in the mujahidin's interim government, in which Mr. Hekmatyar is foreign minister.

"Jamiyat-e is exploiting a regional incident," Mr. Hekmatyar, who just returned to Pakistan after a month-long tour of eight Afghan provinces, said here Saturday at a news conference.

Mr. Hekmatyar criticized Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, Jamiyat-e's powerful commander in northern Afghanistan, saying that "instead of fighting the Kabul regime, his guerrillas were engaged in war against Hezb-e."

He said that only five guerrillas and six commanders of Jamiyat-e were killed during the clash in Takhar Province and his men were still holding "some" Jamiyat-e mujahidin. "We have kept them for a mutual exchange of prisoners with Jamiyat-e, which is holding some of our men," he added.

The rebel leader, who looked relaxed and confident, proposed the setting up of an "authoritative commission" to probe the incident adding that the commission should be headed by three other rebel leaders—fundamentalist Rasul Sayyaf and Yunis Khalis and the more moderate Nabi Mohammedi.

Last week, mujahidin interim president Sebgatullah Mojadeddi, at a large gathering with Mr Rabbani, announced that a commission of Muslim religious scholars and tribal elite would investigate the Takhar incident to punish the "culprits under Islamic law."

At the news conference, Mr. Hekmatyar was also critical of the interim government and Mr. Mojaddedi. He said the "field commanders" inside Afghanistan were "not satisfied with its performance," and nor were the Iran-based Afghan Shiite rebels, who abstained from taking part in the mujahidin cabinet complaining of insufficient representation.

Mr. Hekmatyar said one solution for ending the deadlock in Afghanistan would be "a coup by non-members of People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan inside the Afghan Army.

"If the coup is successful, a revolutionary council should take over and set up an authoritative commission to conduct elections and transfer the power within six months," he said.

At the same time, the mujahidin should hold elections in the five provinces and 230 districts they currently control to "reduce the tensions between the parties, as everyone would have its share." There are 30 provinces in Afghanistan.

Calls For Elections To End Infighting

BK0608033089 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 6 Aug 89

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] Quarreling between rival groups of Afghan guerrillas recently left 32 mujahidin being killed by guerrillas from another party. Now the leader of the group accused of carrying out the killings, Mr Golbuddin Hekmatyar, has called for immediate elections for an alternative Afghan government. He said they would be the only way to stop this kind of infighting. From Islamabad, (Phil Jones) reports:

[Begin (Jones) recording] Golbuddin Hekmatyar, recently branded a cutthroat by rival guerrilla groups who blame him for the killing of 32 of their men in northern Afghanistan, said that immediate elections were the only solution to the disputes now going on within the mujahidin movement. Speaking to reporters in Peshawar, the home of the guerrillas' presently-nominated interim government, he said that such disputes within the resistance would not arise if they held elections. Such a move, he said, would control the current infighting among the tribal and ethnic groups and bring in others, like the parties now fighting the war from bases inside Iran. According to Hekmatyar, the elections could be held among the 5 million Afghan refugees now living in camps in Pakistan and Iran and also the 6 provincial capitals and the 230 districts inside Afghanistan which he claimed were now controlled by the mujahidin. [end recording]

Accuses Iran of Interference

BK0608135889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1339 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Aug 6 (AFP)—Afghan fundamentalist leader Golbuddin Hekmatyar Sunday [6 August] accused Iran of "interfering" in mujahidin affairs by exploiting a clash last month between two resistance groups.

Mr. Hekmatyar, who heads the Hezb-e Eslami Party, made the statement to an audience of some 20,000 mujahidin and Afghan refugees at nearby Warsak camp.

Thirty mujahidin from the relatively moderate Jamiyat-e Eslami faction, including six commanders, were ambushed and killed near Tangi Farkhar in northeastern Takhar Province by Hezb Commander Sayyed Jamal on July 9, according to Jamiyat sources.

One week ago Jamiyat leader Burhanuddin Rabbani called for suspension of Hezb's membership in the mujahidin interim government, in which Mr. Hekmatyar is foreign minister.

In his statement, Mr. Hekmatyar deplored the presence of Iranian consul general in Peshawar, Aga-e Majid Jaberi, at last week's public meeting during which Mr. Rabbani called for the Hezb suspension. Mr. Jaberi later said he had attended to "pray for the departed souls" of the Jamiyat guerrillas.

Iran supports an eight-party alliance of Shiite rebels based in Tehran, while Pakistan is the base for a seven-party Sunni alliance which formed the interim government in February. The Iran-based group has refused to take part in the government complaining of insufficient representation.

Mr. Hekmatyar, who recently returned from a month-long tour of eight Afghan provinces, also accused the president of the interim government, Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, of taking sides with Jamiyat "without investigating into the facts."

"Mojaddedi has made his position doubtful by addressing the gathering organised by Jamiyat and holding Hezb responsible of the clash," he said, adding that Mr. Mojaddedi would "be responsible for any consequences on this issue if he did not retract."

"Although Mr. Mojaddedi's party (the National Liberation Front of Afghanistan) is very small, we accepted his presidentship, because we want unity," Mr. Hekmatyar said.

He again denied that 30 Jamiyat guerrillas had been killed in the incident saying "only five guerrillas and six commanders" died.

Mr Hekmatyar also accused Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, a strong Jamiyat commander in northern Afghanistan, of waging a "war against Hezb instead of fighting against the communist regime in Kabul."

Last week, Mr. Mojaddedi announced that a commission of Moslem religious scholars and tribal elite would investigate the Takhar incident to punish the "culprits under Islamic laws."

Perez de Cuellar's Statement 'Welcomed'

LD0708065189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, August 6, BAKHTAR—The spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan welcomed the anouncement of Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general on situation of Afghanistan. He added that Perez de Cuellar has played an important role in the signing of the Geneva accords. Signing of the accords on that time, proved the victory of the UNO [UN Organization].

But Resolution No. 20 of the 43rd sessions of the UN General Assembly assigned new responsibilities to the UN secretary general, according to which the UN secretary general should play ever further active role in ending war and ensurance of peace in Afghanistan, he said.

While considering the fresh announcement of the UN secretary general as a timely action, the spokesman stated that we can not regard it enough. Because, in spite of elapsing of 14 months from the signing of the Geneva accords, war and encroachements have been intensified against our country. The violations of Pakistan from the provisions of the Geneva accords which is the main factor of intensification of war and interferences, seriously questioned the credibility of the UN and international treaties.

The UN can, the spokesman stressed, play an active role in the observance of the Geneva accords by the sides concerned and their supervision through the UN Good Services Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan "UNGOMAP".

The UN secretary general in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to him by the UN Charter and the resolution of the 43rd session of the UN General Assembly can take practical steps for preservation of durable peace in Afghanistan as well as in region. Also according to the said responsibilities, he should take new steps such as visit from Kabul and Islamabad and adopt serious measures in the field, because of that the innnocent Afghan people have been targeted of Pakistani exported rockets, contrary to the Geneva accords, sustain daily remarkable human and material losses, becomes able to preserve peace in their country, he emphasized. [sentence as received]

While the Afghan side emphasizing its unanimous views with the UN secretary general on the need of political solution of the Afghan issue and loyalty to the district observance of letter and spirit of the Geneva accords, has honestly implemented it, once again expresses its readiness and all-sided cooperation in realization the June 3rd UN announcement in relation to the situation in Afghanistan and hope that UN secretary general should put pressure on Pakistani side to express its practical readiness and sincere cooperation on fulfilling responsibilities assigned to it by the Geneva accords and contents of the announcement of the UN secretary general and take first and practical steps in the field.

19 More Missiles Fired at Kabul 4 Aug

LD0508064189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0441 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 4, BAKHTAR—One civilian was killed and four others wounded as a result of the nineteen surface-to-surface rockets fired by the extremists today on the residential areas of Kabul City.

The wounded persons were transferred immediately to the hospital and their health conditions were reported improving.

1 Killed, 15 Injured 5 Aug

LD0508153889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] The Pakistan-backed professional murderers and killers, in continuation of their unforgivable crimes, today fired 24 surface-to-surface missiles at the residential regions of Kabul City.

According to a BIA report, one compatriot was martyred and another 15 injured. The injured were quickly taken to hospitals for observation and treatment.

The missiles fired by the professional criminals resulted in heavy losses being inflicted on our compatriots [as heard].

9 Killed, 35 Injured

LD0608171389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] Professional murderers and the enemies of our Muslim people who are supported by Pakistani state terrorism today [6 August] again fired surface-to-surface missiles into residential areas and crowded places of Kabul city.

According to the reports which have been received so far by BAKHTAR, these professional criminals have fired 38 surface-to-surface missiles on the residential areas and crowded places of Kabul City, including the parking places of buses.

As a result nine of our compatriots including innocent children, women, and elderly people were martyred and 35 others were injured. Heavy financial losses have also been inflicted on our compatriots. The injured were transported to hospitals immediately and are under serious treatment and attention. BAKHTAR adds that it is possible that the losses of life as a result of today's missile fire will be higher than this.

Attacks on Kabul Continue

BK0708030489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that the mujahidin continued firing rockets on Kabul for the 3d consecutive day yesterday, killing at least nine people. Yesterday's attack was carried out as Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze arrived in the Afghan capital on a brief visit. A UN officer said that a number of rockets fell in the morning at (Darul Aman) area of the city where the Soviet Embassy and the Defense Ministry offices of the Kabul regime are located.

Another report says that the mujahidin in their attacks on the Kabul airport hit two aircraft of the Kabul regime and destroyed an arms depot.

The Soviet foreign minister in a Soviet television interview said that his visit was aimed at exchanging views on the situation in Afghanistan since the Soviet troop withdrawal.

Mujahidin Attack Konduz Airport, Kill 18 Soldiers

BK0508022489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] According to reports, the mujahidin in their recent attacks on Konduz Airport killed 18 Kabul soldiers. In their operation last Sunday [30 July] they set fire to an aircraft and a tank.

According to another report from (Ghowr) Province, the mujahidin inflicted heavy loss of life and property on Kabul troops in an operation in (Bakua) subdivision. Three armored personnel carriers and four other military vehicles were destroyed in the operation.

Attack Ghazni Airport, Kill 28

BK0508154589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1535 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 5 (AFP)—Mujahidin guerrillas killed 28 government troops and destroyed almost 100 vehicles during an attack on an airport in eastern Afghanistan, the pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) reported.

The Moslem guerrillas attacked Ghazni Airport on Wednesday [2 August] and captured a security post near the airport the following day, AIP said.

It said the guerrillas killed 28 Kabul soldiers and destroyed 96 vehicles, including tanks. Two of the attackers were killed and one wounded, AIP said.

The agency did not give further details.

Tuesday, the mujahidin attacked southern Qandahar Airport and destroyed a plane and a helicopter, the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) said.

Afghan air force planes struck back by bombing mujahidin positions killing one rebel and injuring another, ANA said.

The same day the mujahidin attacked and captured a military post near Qandahar city. The guerillas killed five soldiers during the fighting, following which 29 others defected and joined the mujahidin, the agency said.

India

Government Ready To Talk to U.S. Over Trade Bill

BK0408142589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1338 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 4 (AFP)—India was ready to negotiate with the United States over alleged unfair trade practices over which Washington has threatened sanctions, but had not yet been approached, Commerce Minister Dinesh Singh said Friday [4 August].

"Although we have not declined to negotiate, we shall do so in an appropriate forum, such as the Indo-U.S. commission," Mr. Singh told Parliament's Lower House.

He said, the United States had not approached India for negotiations, and New Delhi had made it clear it would not negotiate under the threat of retaliation.

It was the second time India has said it is prepared to negotiate following the U.S. decision May 25 to put India, Japan and Brazil on a "hit list" as the worst offenders in breaches of U.S. standards of free and fair trade.

Last month Finance Minister Shankarrao Bhaorao Chavan said "We are open to persuasion, but will not yield to any threats."

India was put on the list for allegedly setting up insurance and investment barriers.

Mandated by the Super 301 provision of the omnibus Trade Bill passed by the U.S. Congress last year, Washington can levy tariffs of up to 100 percent on selected imports if the unfair practices are continued following an 18-month negotiating period.

New Delhi had earlier reacted sharply to Washington's threatened trade sanctions and had declared it was not prepared to negotiate.

Criticising the U.S. Trade Bill, Mr. Singh said "The United States is seeking jurisdiction to determine whether certain aspects of our domestic policies are fair or equitable. The step is an unwarranted encroachment on India's sovereignty."

"India was under no international treaty obligations in these areas and are free to pursue policies in pursuance of its development objectives," he added.

Mr. Singh also pointed out that India and the U.S. were members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and the United States would need its approval before taking any retaliatory steps.

A Bombay-based business weekly reported last month that New Delhi had asked businessmen close to the United States to begin the negotiating process, adding that the government would step in when it considered the time was right.

Indian officials declined to comment on the report.

Premadasa To Consider Indo-Sri Lanka Team's Ideas
BK0408145989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1440 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Aug 4 (AFP)—Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa will consider proposals prepared by an Indo-Sri Lankan team here on the issue of withdrawing 45,000 Indian soldiers from the strife-torn island.

External Affairs Ministry spokesman Aftab Seth said the Sri Lankan delegation "will come back to India after discussing the proposals with Mr. Premadasa."

He said there was no set date for the return of the Sri Lankan delegation, adding that it would be done only after Mr. Premadasa approves the points.

"The Sri Lankan delegation is carrying back ideas and specific suggestions which have emerged during the discussions.

"The delegation will carry these to the Sri Lankan president so that both sides may decide on how to progress further," Mr. Seth said.

A time frame for the pullout of the Indian soldiers along with ideas for ensuring the safety and security of Sri Lanka's minority Tamils and other communities were also discussed, he said, but gave no further details.

The Sri Lankan High Commission (Embassy) said in a statement: "The Sri Lankan delegation... will submit their report to Mr. Premadasa" and added that the 10-member team was leaving New Delhi later Friday.

"The discussions centred round the regular expeditious withdrawal of the Indian Peacekeeping Force (IPKF), the cessation of offensive military operations by them and the security situation in the Northern and Eastern Provinces and other relevant issues," the statement said.

"During the discussions, both sides presented their proposals for resolving the issues involved," it said, adding the talks were held in a "cordial and friendly atmosphere."

The Indian spokesman said: "The discussions were cordial and frank and characterised by constructive approaches. There were large areas of understanding and both (parties) appreciated each other's concerns."

The two statements came after India's External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao hosted a farewell lunch for his Sri Lankan counterpart Ranjan Wijeratne, who headed the visiting delegation.

Mr. Wijeratne said Thursday that the talks had concluded and that he was not entirely satisfied, causing consternation within Indian diplomatic circles. He told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that "no definite agreements" had been reached.

The two sides Friday also refused to comment on the contentious issue of devolution of powers to Sri Lanka's minority Tamil population, an estimated two million people living mostly in the island's north and east.

The Sri Lankan delegation had been scheduled to leave Tuesday, but the talks were prolonged amid speculation that negotiations had reached an impasse. [passage omitted]

Mr. Wijeratne met with Defence Minister Krishna Chandra Pant and Commerce Minister Dinesh Singh.

The Sri Lankan delegation comprised former Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed, Foreign Secretary Bernard Tilakratne, Mr. Premadasa's international affairs adviser, Bradman Weekaroon, among others. [passage omitted]

Sri Lankan Delegation Departs
BK0408160989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] The week-long talks between India and Sri Lanka on the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement ended today with both sides appreciating each other's concerns. An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that the talks were cordial and frank and characterized by a constructive approach. There were large areas of understanding between the two countries. The Sri Lankan delegation is carrying back ideas and specific suggestions, which have emerged during the discussions. They will convey these to the Sri Lankan president, Mr Premadasa, so that both the sides may decide on how to proceed further.

During their stay in the capital, the Sri Lankan delegation led by the foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, called on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, on two

occasions. They had detailed discussions with the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, and the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant. They also had several rounds of talks with the Indian officials on various issues.

Replying to queries, the spokesman said the both sides agreed that the issues should be looked at from a long term perspective in the context of the age old relationship and cultural ties between the two countries.

To another question, he said that the schedule for the de-induction of the peacekeeping force [PKF] was discussed along with ideas for insuring the safety and security of Tamils and other communities in the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka. The suspension of offensive operations by the PKF also figured during the discussions.

The [Sri Lankan] delegation has since left New Delhi for Colombo.

The spokesman said that the chief minister of the Northeastern Province, Mr Varadaraja Perumal, now in Delhi, will be having consultations with the Indian leaders.

Increased Efforts for Afghan Settlement Planned
BK0408160589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1549 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 4 (AFP)—India will intensify efforts towards bringing about a peaceful political settlement in Afghanistan, Foreign Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao said Friday [4 August].

Mr. Rao made the statement at a meeting of his ministry's Parliamentary Consultative Committee after several MP's [members of Parliament] cautioned the government that there was a danger that sophisticated arms being supplied to the Afghan mujahidin rebels could reach India, officials said.

Mr. Rao said it was "unrealistic" to look for a military solution in Afghanistan in the face of growing resistance by the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah against the mujahidin since Moscow completed withdrawing its troops February 15.

Mr. Rao regretted, according to the officials, that regardless of any temporary gains or losses in the fighting in Afghanistan, there was "no prospect of the peace returning to that war-torn country."

The minister promised New Delhi would continue to support the efforts of "all interested" in ending the fight in Afghanistan and ensuring the status of Afghanistan as a non-aligned country.

Mr. Rao expressed the hope that some initiative on Afghanistan would emerge at the next summit of the Non-aligned Movement in Belgrade, the officials said.

Some of the participants in the deliberations of the committee, which consists of MP's from both the ruling Congress (I) and opposition parties, voiced concern at what they said was an increasing supply of sophisticated arms to the mujahidin, apparently by the United States via Pakistan.

They cautioned New Delhi that these arms could reach "anti-social elements in India," a term commonly used in India to describe violent elements, including Sikh militants leading a bloody campaign for an independent homeland in northern Punjab State, which borders Pakistan.

Government Concerned About Arrest of 2 Burmese
BK0408152689 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1435 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] The Government of India is deeply concerned over the arrest of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and U Tin U by the military authorities in Burma. With their arrest, the process of transition to democracy promised by the military government will receive a serious setback. The sincerity of the military authorities to take the country towards a democratic system must now be opened to serious doubts.

The Government of India would urge military authorities to release the two leaders and create conditions for holding free and fair elections as soon as possible so that the democratic aspirations of the people of Burma can be realised.

Army on Stand By as Violence Flares in Bihar
BK0508075489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0714 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 5 (AFP)—The Indian Army was on standby Saturday [5 August] in the eastern state of Bihar, where a two-day protest against alleged police beatings of journalists turned violent, newspapers reported here.

The Army was on standby in the colliery district of Dhanbad after police failed to quell Friday's large-scale violence by students and demonstrations by reporters, THE STATESMAN newspaper said.

The Chatra Sangarsh Samity, or Students Action Front, Thursday sponsored a 48-hour general strike in Dhanbad to protest the beating of several local reporters by the police July 28 and the subsequent arrests of some of them.

Angry reporters blocked traffic and stopped trucks from moving into the coal-rich district. They also stopped students from going to colleges and forced shops to shut Friday, THE STATESMAN said.

At least 35 students of the front were injured in street battles with the police in Dhandbad, 450 kilometres (270 miles) from Calcutta, where the strikers completely paralyzed road traffic, it said.

Police have denied beating up student protesters and said that several officers were injured in the street fights. Several newspaper vehicles were also damaged in the violence.

The INDIAN EXPRESS newspaper said some 800 riot policemen have been sent to Dhanbad from state capital Patna to back the local police.

The district, which supplies coal to some of India's largest power stations, remained cut off by rail from the rest of the country for the second straight day Friday as the strikers tore out train tracks.

Journalists also sat on rail lines, disrupting passenger traffic, the newspapers said.

Meanwhile, Bihar journalist associations have decided to suspend their statewide protests as the administration late Friday agreed to set up a high-powered committee to investigate allegations of violence against the reporters in Dhanbad, THE TIMES OF INDIA said.

The state government has also transferred out of Dhanbad a senior police officer on charges that he was responsible for the beating and arrests of several newspapermen in the district town, it added.

Several journalists have been murdered or assaulted in the rugged coalfields of Dhanbad during the past several years.

2 Killed, 11 Injured in Bomb Blasts in Kashmir

BK0608144489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1436 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] Srinagar, India, Aug 6 (AFP)—Several bomb blasts blamed on pro-Pakistan Moslem militants have left two dead and at least 11 injured in India's northern state of Jammu and Kashmir, officials here said Sunday [6 August].

A powerful bomb planted by suspected Kashmiri Moslem militants exploded early Sunday in Sudhapora village on Jammu and Kashmir's border with the Pakistan-ruled part of Kashmir killing two and injuring two, the officials said.

Some nine people, including a local journalist, were injured in a wave of similar bombings over the last three days in the Moslem-dominated Kashmir valley, including the state's summer capital Srinagar, they said.

Officials said they believed the renewed violence was "a warning to the residents (of the state) by the pro-Pakistani Moslem militants to strictly observe" a general strike they have called in the area to celebrate Pakistan's national day on August 14.

The militants have also called on Kashmiris to observe "a black day" on August 15, India's national day, to protest what they called the "usurping of Kashmir by India."

Previous such militant celebrations have led to extensive violence in Jammu and Kashmir which is claimed by both India and Pakistan.

Following independence from Britain in 1947 Jammu and Kashmir, then ruled by a Hindu prince, acceded to India, but Pakistan refused to accept the accession. The two neighbours have since fought two wars, in 1947 and 1965, because of the Kashmir dispute.

Police Fire on 'Unruly Mob' in Rajasthan; 2 Dead

BK0708034089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] In Rajasthan, two persons were killed and three seriously injured yesterday when police opened fire to disperse an unruly mob in Parsola village of Udaipur District. Senior police officials have rushed to the spot with reinforcements.

Gandhi on Opposition Resignation From Lok Sabha

BK0708100489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, today introduced the Constitution 65th amendment bill [giving wider powers to urban local bodies] in the Lok Sabha asserting that through this power is sought to be vested in the hands of the people where it rightfully belongs in a democracy. It will also be the key to eliminating the power brokers in urban India.

Amidst repeated thumping of desks by members, the prime minister said the nagar palika [urban local bodies] bill supplements the panchayati raj [village council system] bill. Its theme is the same. It is meant to give constitutional sanctions for maximum democracy and maximum devolution of power.

During his 45-minute speech, the prime minister recalled the events of the past few weeks and said that the country has witnessed the gravest assault on democracy since the founding of our republic—the abandonment of the Lok Sabha by a section of the elected representatives of the people.

Mr Gandhi said that in the last general elections the people gave the Congress-I an overwhelming mandate to govern the country for 5 years. In the same elections, they returned a few opposition members to fulfill the

vital democratic functioning of contesting the government and its policies on the floor of the house. The prime minister said that we respect those democratic and independent-minded members of the opposition who are in the house today to debate the issues of national importance. At the same time we deplore the behavior of those other members of the opposition who have simply run away from this highest forum of democratic dialogue. They have abused this noble institution to which they were elected. They have violated their mandate. They have betrayed their constituents. They have eroded democracy itself. He said they have tried to destroy the democracy in Parliament because they could not bear to see democracy devolved to the people. Had they stayed, they would have been exposed, Mr Gandhi remarked.

The prime minister said democracy in Parliament and in the state legislatures remains fragile as long as the roots of our democracy do not reach down to the villages and mohallas [neighborhoods] where the people live. Mr Gandhi said that with these two bills we shall ensure that while India lives, democracy at the grassroots lives.

Opposing the introduction of the bill, Syed Shahabuddin, Janata Party, said that the bill seeks to alter the basic structure of the Constitution. It goes beyond the powers of Parliament enshrined in the Constitution.

Rejecting the argument, the law minister, Mr Shankaranand, asserted that the Government is not seeking to change the basic structures of the Constitution.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Friday Prayers Sermon

LD0408171189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1134 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Second Friday prayers sermon by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 4 Aug in Tehran—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic passage omitted] In the second sermon, I wish to refer to two issues: One is about our own country and the current issues of the country; the second is about Lebanon and regional issues, and I will try not to keep you too long in this hot weather.

Thanks be to God, despite the wishes of world blasphemy and counterrevolutionaries, as a result of the plans which his eminence the imam of the ummah [Ayatollah Khomeyni] made and as a result of his timely farsightedness, after his demise the course of the revolution continued along the same path and in the same condition as he desired. Today we witness the stability and strengthening of the position of the revolution in our country and the position of Islam in the world. In the past few days in various sermons and discussions, we and others have elaborated on this point. Perhaps the most important basis of the issue is you, the people. The main levers were in your hands, not in the hands of others. If in the burial ceremonies of his eminence the imam, in the ceremonies on the 40th day after the demise of the imam, and in mourning ceremonies, if the people had not participated in the way that they did, if in the expression of allegiance to our new illustrious leader the people had not been as forthcoming as they were, and if in the elections and the referendum on the Constitution [amendments] the people had not participated in the way they did, the situation would not have been as it is today. No matter whatever else has happened, regardless of any measures we took, regardless of any other strength or any compromise which might have taken place, that would not have been what we wished. [sentence as heard] What the imam would have desired, what God wishes, and what is the true path, is that the people—the masters of the country—desire a certain path, support a certain cause, and express their own opinion, to remain on the scene and announce their path the way they wish. This is of great importance, and no one in the world can deny it. Today there is no one in the world, no newspaper, no magazine, no radio, no television, no analyst who can say that something which the people want and about which they are insistent should not come about. This cannot be so. This is one of the certainties in today's societies.

We will not talk any more about earlier events. We will talk only about the elections and the referendum, which in my view was one of the most eloquent, instructive, and revealing testimony. I wish I were not the winner of these elections so that I would have been more free in expressing the various dimensions of these elections. Here I will refer to issues which will not concern me personally.

The votes which were cast in our latest elections both for the amendment of the Constitution and for president were among the healthiest elections among all the elections in the world, and even among the elections after our own revolution. Let me elaborate a little so that the issue will become clearer. It is customary throughout the world that for the sake of encouraging the people to take part in the elections and to vote, they arouse individual and group motivations, so that the people are drawn to the ballot boxes as the result of rivalries and such things. The fact that a person might leave his house, stand for hours in long lines in hot or cold weather, get to the balloting stations by way of the existing difficult means of transportation, that he stands until he can cast his vote without being asked to do so by any particular party, without having any group affiliation, without feeling that there are any rivals, without feeling any danger—that vote is a proper vote. Other votes are also votes. I am not saying that those votes are not valid. If there is a serious rivalry in elections and if each side may be afraid that its rivals may win, those who win in those elections—those are also votes and valuable votes. However, they are different from votes which are cast by a person as the result of his faith, his belief, and of the fact that he is going to the ballot boxes only to cast his vote for the sake of the system, for the sake of his path.

In the presidential elections and the referendum on constitutional amendments, certain people were rather frightened—those who do not yet understood our society but are sympathetic to us—who thought that after [the death of] his eminence the imam the people would not go to the ballot boxes as before. In the past, the imam used to say that it was a religious duty, and the people acted according to their religious duty. The people were the imitators of the imam and when the imam said that it was a religious duty they would act according to his decree. This was one source of anxiety.

The other anxiety which was expressed, and which was also expressed by foreigners, was that the sentiments you noticed in the passing of his eminence the imam and in the ceremonies [of his burial] belonged to the past. Because the people were attached to the imam, they were saddened because of the imam's demise, and even if they killed themselves in the imam's mourning ceremonies, it would have been understandable—and some people did lose their lives in those ceremonies. It was said that these things happened because of the fact that they were attached to the imam. This belongs to the past. We should not confuse the future with the past. The fact that the people come now and vote for the future is different and should not be confused with the other issue. Therefore, the Westerners particularly gave their attention to this point: They had made certain calculations and were waiting to see what would happen. Is it people's emotions that dragged the people from their homes to Tehran's Friday prayers premises or to Behesht-e Zahra cemetery and the shrine of the imam, or are they doing it because of proper calculations, because of reason, because of a certain logic, because of their interest in their fate, their fondness for the system, their fondness for their path, their faithfulness to the revolution? This had not been tested.

There were also a number of negative points: One was that the Westerners tried to convince the people that the president who you wanted to elect would be elected in any case. The people were not so worried that if they did not go to vote the person that they wanted to elect would not be elected. They were not worried about this. They knew that whether with a few votes or with many votes that person would be elected. Such an idea was going around; perhaps the people felt this themselves, or perhaps this idea was put in their minds.

The second point was that there was no serious rivalry in the elections, as existed in the elections for the Majlis or, to some extent, in former presidential elections. As a result, there was no propaganda by the candidates. The other candidate, His Excellency Mr Sheybani, told his supporters not to spend anything in these elections, and he expressed his views through radio and television. I also—anytime someone came to me and as a sign of friendship urged me to engage in a certain amount of propaganda—told him there is no need for this because the people know me. After these past 10 years, either the people accept me or not—you will not be able to change people's views through a portrait, a banner, or a few words that you might write on the walls. Whatever we do now would be a waste. Therefore, I personally will not have any kind of propaganda. God knows that I did not spend even a penny for propaganda. It was not necessary and had I done so, it would have been a sin and anybody I came across I told them not to do so. I only gave permission for one thing: that they could call upon the people to take part in the elections so that the people would not forget that there were elections being held. You should publicize that so that the people may vote, but there is no need for personal propaganda.

As you noticed only on personal initiatives in certain places did the people expressed some interest [in propaganda for Hashemi-Rafsanjani], and I sincerely thank them for it and hope that what they have done has been for the sake of God and that God will also recompense them. In any case, the main point is that in these elections truly there was no or very little propaganda to incite the people to take part in the elections and vote for a particular person. Compare this with our last elections, the Majlis elections. You could see it in the streets in Tehran and in provinces, all the streets, roads, alleys, squares—and that was correct. I am not against that kind of propaganda. During elections there should be some propaganda so that the people can become acquainted with the candidates, and can make proper choices and vote for them. This is quite acceptable in a democratic system. I have no objections. However, what I am saying is that here [in the presidential elections] there was no propaganda which would create special motivation in individuals, ideologies, and sections so that the people would go to the ballot boxes with those motivations. Of those who voted, 99 percent of them were voting for the system and wanted to confirm the course which the system has adopted.

Westerners were even a bit mischievous in their propaganda; they made one of the most unfair assessments which is worth mentioning here. One reporter said: It is true that people voted; however, it was not like democracy as we accept it in the West. See for yourself how unfair they are. What does democracy mean? It means the rule of the people; that is, the rule of what people want. Now, of all the 15 or 16 million voters who went to the polls, is there anyone who really claims that he was told that you definitely must vote or that you must definitely vote for a certain person?

If democracy means that a person should be elected by the people and truly in accordance with their wishes—when there has been no misleading propaganda, no obligation, when the people are free, when the people could write [the name of] whomever they wanted or when people could write nothing at all casting a blank ballot into the box as a few thousand people did—do the Westerners really have that freedom, that open atmosphere? They are really unfair. Again, they have argued that people cast their votes very openly; in the West, they vote in secret. Well, were we saying to the people, write

openly? For a person who came to vote, the ballot was secret. It is his right to take his ballot, mark it, fold it, without anyone seeing. All that had been described for the people. The people knew it.

It was the freest kind of election; the freest atmosphere for voting without any propaganda pressure, without any ploy. Westerners normally attract the people's votes with a thousand ploys, making claims and promises to different groups: One attracts Jews, one Arabs, one Muslims, one Christians, one workers—each one in some form. Here, there are classes of people; in any way and in any form, those who felt like it went to the polling stations and voted. And many did not feel like it—they like the system but they did not go. Or else they say that people voted so that they could have the election stamp in their birth certificate for getting ration coupons later. That is the most shameful analysis from the foreign centers of the world. In these past 10 years, when have we ever told someone that as you do not have an election stamp on your birth certificate you will not receive a coupon? If they find even one example, let them come and say it. So the people who did not go to the polling stations and who do not have the stamp will not be able to get coupons from now on. Presumably, that is how it is in your [Westerner] view.

They are truly unfair in their assertions. They ignore the sincerity, affection, and unity which we saw in these elections, and especially with regard to the voting for the amendment of the Constitution. That was the crystallization of the people's affection for and absolute trust in the system's officials—a people who want their system to work more smoothly; who want administrative knots to be untied, judicial knots untied; to gain efficiency in their own society. And they are so intelligent: the people listened carefully to the discussions which took place and were broadcast directly on the Voice and Vision [radio and television]. Regarding the discussions of the sessions of the Council for Reappraisal of the Constitution which were aired by radio and television, these serious discussions, thinking people voiced their opinons about their weak points, saying what they thought, and the people heard it. And having listened to the discussions, the people decided that it [constitutional referendum] was in the interest of their system. They trusted their officials and they came in great numbers [to vote]. There were people who did not vote for the president but voted for the amendment of the constitution. As you know the number of those votes [for the constitution] was greater than these [for the president].

The situation which we witnessed was very good for us. It is also very important from our point of view; that is, I, as an administrative official, who see your votes for me, am certain that the nation and the ummah will defend and support its government and its state. If this nation is well treated, the government possesses the best power, in that ummah, for running the country. [Crowd chants "God is great," "Death to the U.S.," "Death to Britain," "Death to the hypocrites," and "Death to Israel"]

Now, in conclusion, I would like to depict the situation that migh occur in the future. In my opinion, with the conditions which have been created, the ground has been laid for taking part in serious work. This means that if the government which is about to take office and the officials who are to take over the responsibilities do not work now, we can put the blame elsewhere. All conditions for working well presently exist in our country. I will now enumerate some of these:

First, the solidarity of the people. The vote indicated that a decisive majority of nearly the entire people are united in continuing the path and the rule of Islam and the Koran and in continuing the existing system. This is highly significant. The intellectual antagonisms which existed in society melted away in an incredible way. I do not know in which miracle in our history this was attributed. [passage omitted]

When present at the Majlis—the Majlis is the reflection of the country's unity of hearts and intellectual currents, and the political pivot of the country. [incomplete sentence as heard] After that event, when we lost the pivot and the anchor of our vessel and felt that we should stand on our own feet, because the imam is no longer standing by us to save us from the water, then there were feelings that differences of opinion existed. Of course, opinions can always be maintained. One can always have one's own opinion, and reasoning does not need to involve quarrelling. One can put forward one's reasons. Suddenly, there was much calm and they became so united and friendly and intimate, while on the outside the various factions thought that there was a power struggle and that they are all at each others throats. These people were so sincere and united.

In the Majlis, when an inexperienced youth rose to give an opposing line, the deputies unanimously condemned him. This is a remarkable thing. If he had said such a thing a month or two earlier, about half the Majlis would probably have defended him. But when he said such a thing, from about 188—or around that figure—of those who were present in the Majlis, there were only 2 votes in favor, and the rest called for his expulsion from the Majlis, so that there would be no opposing line among this unity and solidarity among the people.

This is a situation which has not existed since the beginning of the revolution. We should maintain this. God willing, the nation will be the guardians of this situation and whenever you hear an opposing line, you should repeat the story of the incident which happened in the Majlis, and let these people remain united, so that we may be able to carry on this difficult path which we have ahead of us. [crowd chants support]

The second issue is the practical presence of the leader in the management of the country's tasks. In the past we relied on his eminence the imam. Our weak point now is that we no longer have the imam. The imam was the sun which shone above the heads of all Muslims, the light

which illuminated all places. We managed the country's tasks easily and had no worries because we had a leader such as the imam. In the absence of the imam, this weak point exists. Lack of the imam's presence means the loss of one of the greatest supporters of the country.

However, fortunately, the election which took place in the Assembly of the Experts created the best possible substitute for the imam. We now have a leader who is more familiar with the country's pains, obstacles, capabilities, and solutions than any other official. He is graciously involved in all issues, with utmost compassion and initiative.

The person responsible for the country—the president—is aware that he has the support and guidance of someone who can sort out the country's general policies with the knowledge of the most delicate issues of the country. This knowledge, that I as president can with much ease be the executor of the general policies—which are written by someone who has knowledge of the country's issues and who has been present on the scene from the first day of the revolution, and will stand steadfast by this revolution till the end of his life... [changes thought] In fact, we now have one of the most effective supports for the management of the country in the form of this leader.

The third issue is that of the despondency of our enemies. You have not been in touch with foreign mass media and world opinions as much as we have. We are aware of many things, we hear many things. Before the demise of his eminence the imam, and during those days when the news of his eminence's ill health had gradually begun to spread, our enemies—the government and currents opposed to us, foreign and domestic—became very hopeful. They had drawn up plans and packed their luggage thinking that a power struggle and chaos were imminent and they could drop everything and come here.

Today, a few weeks after our great leader's demise, by glancing at the world's mass media and their opinions, we notice that they all resemble a depressed snake stranded in the winter snow. There remains no hope whatsoever for them regarding their future—whether great governments such as those of America and England or those small seditious elements of the left and right who were fighting against the system. The enemies became totally despondent, and the Muslim friends throughout the entire world became more hopeful. Your dynamism, your mood, and your confident nature constitute extremely firm support for working in depth.

Another issue which we now face is that unlike previous years: We no longer are at war. Do not be unfair with regard to the previous government and those officials who played a role in the past. In the state of war, normal management of the country was a very difficult task. Over half of our resources were spent on the war, and it was virtually impossible to conduct any planning.

Of course, we have not yet come out of the war. We are still spending a significant part of our resources on mobilizing for the potential recurrence of the war. However, it is now very different from what it was in the state of the war. During the war, by sunset each day, we had lost a factory, a generating station, a pumping station, a railway—or we had lost a vast number of our dear offspring, from aircraft bombings, or with a bullet or the like. All these were burdens on the country's shoulders.

Now in the situation of neither war nor peace such things no longer exist. Of course, there are those who are opposed. Planning is now possible, to an extent. This was not possible in the past. We can take at least $2 billion out of war expenditures and spend it on tasks which we could not carry out then. Therefore, the conditions for running the country are more suitable for the future. However, if war comes again—even though I can confirm that the Iraqis have become so exhausted that they will not harbor any thoughts of [waging] a war for the next century... [changes thought] They have to make great efforts in order to make up for all the losses which they had inflicted on themselves.

I anticipate there will be coordination at a very high level, between the Majlis and the government. With the sincerity that exists between the Cabinet and the Majlis we will be able to work faster. Before we did not have any programming. Now our 5-year plan is being prepared. The planning by itself clarifies many issues. The future will become clearer. There are definite lines, and we know where we are going, what we are aiming for. The officials know their responsibilities, so repetition of work and many wrong doings will be audited.

We have faced other things: The experiences that our officials in charge of executive affairs have undergone are good reserves for us and will benefit us. Now that we recognize our resources and our needs, foreign policy has evolved to the point that, like before, we are not suffering from an economic blockade. Now there is a race going on from various parts of the world to rectify their past, and we have a choice of which ones to choose among them—appropriate ones that will safeguard the path of Islam.

We have the long term work of the first and the second 5-year plans. God willing, during these two programs, which we have called "the decade for reconstruction," we will include some basic work in the energy section, in prime industries such as steel, petrochemcials, machinery, and in the principle services of the country such as work on the ports, railways, etc., and without which no country can progress, such as mining, fishing, agriculture, forestry, and so on.

These are going to be organized in a 5-year plan and, God willing, they will progress smoothly and at the end of both programs we will see that this country is back on its feet. But we also need short term programs. Our people have suffered 10 years of war and the pressures

from the revolution. Now it is no longer justified to tell the deprived, the oppressed, the laborers and office workers that they have to wait another 10 years and continue the same torturous way of life.

Luckily I, as the executive of affairs of the country, together with the honorable leader, who is in charge of policymaking, agree on implementing a short term program to reduce—up to a point—the economic pressures of the oppressed. The people who are living in easy circumstances and the ones better off than the middle classes have no problems. They can adjust to any condition. The workers, the office workers, the wage earners, and particularly the unemployed all have serious problems in their lives.

I will give you a few examples, then later on we will elaborate. The practical solution we have thought of, and which we think can reduce our problems during the next 2 to 3 years before our mother industries come to our rescue, is to prepare the way for all production centers and factories that exist in our country to be able to produce with full capacity. This is not the case now; many of the factories are working 20, 30, 40 percent of their capacity. They lack materials, parts, and instruments. They obviously give some of this limited production to various organs and foundations. Some of them, in order to keep their workers, enter the black market and sell their products illegally in order to get more money to pay their workers their wages. We do not like this situation.

We have organized a program that the government, with certain basis that we have derived, will prepare the ground for all factories to work at least in one shift and for the more necessary ones to work more than one shift, until we produce some of the necessary items within the next 7 to 8 months. So that these become operational, we should be able to bring to the market some of the necessary items and to select parts of them for export in order for them [these factories] to be able to import their raw material. This is my general opinion. This, of course, is my overall view and I am sure that the Islamic Consultative Assembly and our colleagues will cooperate with us to continue this, God willing.

The second point which I will mention briefly is the issue of Lebanon. However, I have elaborated on that in my Arabic sermon. In the past week there have been a multitude of increasingly revealing and vociferous events, and at the same time increasingly ugly, all of which clearly reveal the hegemonistic nature of the world powers. With a little attention, you realize the ugliness of the event. There is a country known as Israel, basically a usurper and aggressor, which officially entered a small town by helicopter with military forces, and abducted the Friday imam of that small town and a couple of his bodyguards. This action is not acceptable by any international standards anywhere in the world. No terrorist country can say that this action is right. [sentence as heard] Therefore, no one has been able to say this. There are no international laws which endorse such an action—that a country enters another country, engages in kidnapping, and then leaves by helicopter.

And then they confess. Well, they could have committed this action without confessing to it. Then the action, even though an atrocity, would not have been impudence. But Israel confessed. It made a public announcement. This makes a laughing stock of all those individuals who claim to follow international laws, and makes a mockery of all international standards. What happened then? A number of innocent people whose identity is not even known, a number of unknown people who were fighting covertly, announced that they had killed an individual whom they claimed to have captured as a spy. They hanged him in revenge. Their reason was that Israel is America's agent, and we will take revenge on an American who is a supporter of Israeli atrocity and who is a captive in our hands, in return for Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd. Well, this was their (?way). In addition, they threatened that they would also kill the rest of them if 'Ubayd were not freed.

What can the world do under such conditions? Here there is one clear point and another point which is ambiguous. The clear point is that a government has officially committed aggression and has officially confessed, and by everyone's admission, it has committed a crime.

The ambiguous point is that a group has gone and taken a person who might be innocent; we do not know him; we have no judgment to pass on the colonel. We do not know who he is and cannot judge. We do not know that group [who took him hostage] either—whether they are truthful people or not. Indeed who are they? We only know that the people of Lebanon are victimized. The victimized people cannot be condemned from afar unnecessarily. They are the people who have suffered for years under the tyranny of Israel and its overlords; they live in such a sorry state—everyday shells hit their houses. Well now, how can one come to confront them?

If the world of arrogance intends to do something, it has a clear path: It could grab Israel, telling it to free ['Ubayd] in order to settle the crisis. It is an accepted norm in the world to demand a criminal to abandon his criminal act.

They may say that it does not concern us, that we cannot force Israel. Well, we do not accept that. Nobody else accepts such a premise—neither Israel nor the people of America. If America really intends to forestall Israel, then it must declare it openly. It can say that so long as Shaykh 'Ubayd has not been freed, American assistance would be cut off. Well, in the U.S. Congress where a number of big shots cast their votes, then they can vote in such a manner.

Why do you think in such devious ways? Why do you talk in such arrogant language? Rather than go after a recognized criminal, one who shouts and declares that he is a criminal, you order your naval units to sail toward victimized Lebanon. How stupid can you be?

You did come once. And the Navy was there. The Marines landed. You stayed in Lebanon for weeks and months. Then you saw how the Lebanese kicked you out. And now, well, the Navy with a people... [changes thought] Now that your Navy has not arrived, already your Michel 'Awn, the Iraqi Ba'th Party, Israel, and others are raining shells down on Lebanon. What more can your Navy do when it arrives other than begin shelling. Indeed, is there any place in Lebanon which has not been hit by shells? What threats do you make?

You see what an ugly face the world has acquired. You see how stupid are those politicians ruling the world, and how they use bullying tactics to make judgments.

There are two specific parties. One is an unspecified, victimized group with no refuge, and against it there is a bullying government. Does one mobilize one's navy against such a victimized group? The world is at the mercy of bad governments in our time.

If they intend to resolve the problem of Lebanon there is a way to do so. The way is obvious. They do not want a solution. They are not prepared to abandon the sovereignty of the Maronites in Lebanon. They all hope that one day they will create a Maronite Israel in Lebanon—a Jewish Israel in Palestine, a Maronite Israel in Lebanon. But they are making a mistake. When Israel was created in Palestine, there was no Islamic government in Iran. On that day the Muslim people had not yet been awakened by the Islamic revolution of Iran.

But you have experience; you came to Lebanon once and learned that it could not work. You decided to create a gendarme of Iraqi Ba'thists in the Persian Gulf, but it did not work. The major powers wanted to massacre a Muslim nation in Afghanistan; they wanted to force them out, but it did not work. The people are so alert that they will no longer allow [another] Israel to be created in the world. The most you can do is to preserve your half-dead Israel, which we will not allow. [crowd chants support]

However, Lebanon has a solution. May God so wish. Anyway, I wish to say—I address the White House—that Lebanon has a solution; the freedom of the hostages is solvable. They have intelligent and manageable solutions. One canot resolve the issue with such bullying ways, with arrogant confrontations, and tyranny. Come along wisely. We then will help you to resolve the problems there so that the people of the region may live in peace and tranquillity.

Discusses Reviving Economy

LD0408180389 Tehran IRNA in English 1416 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 4, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani reiterated that he would concentrate on plans revive the economy and lessen the hardship facing the poor. He predicted a significant improvement in industrial production in one year.

In his first major address after his election was ratified on Thursday, Hashemi-Rafsanjani also described Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i's leadership as ideal and believed there would be little difficulty in passing necessary legislation.

He said the first and second five year plans for the "the decade of reconstruction" would "dramatically transform" the fundamental mother industries.

In the meantime short-term plans would be implemented to reduce the burden of inflation and unemployment on the power sectors of the society.

"The plan which the leader and I agree on is a short-term plan to facilitate increased industrial production and output capacity in order to not only... meet domestic demand but also to export a percentage," he told the Friday prayer gathering in Tehran.

"Within the next 12 months the factories will be in such form that would have the means to work at least one (full) shift per day and supply more goods into the market."

In interviews prior to his massive victory in the July 28 election the former Majlis speaker had promised to give top priority in solving the country's economic ills.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed confidence Friday that there would be a high level of harmony betwen his administration and the Majlis there would be "no legislative problem."

He also stressed that after the death of Imam Khomeyni two months ago, Ayatollah Khamene'i was an ideal leader because he was aware of the problems and knew how to overcome them.

Ratifying Hashemi-Rafsanjani's election Thursday, leader Khamene'i cautioned against excessive hopes that the new president would be able to solve various problems quickly. He said results need time, planning and the people's active help.

The president rejected Western propaganda that his election was not an indication of popularity. He said more than 15 million people had voted for him with their own free will.

Presidential Bureau Denies London TIMES Report
LD0708083189 Tehran IRNA in English 0802 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 7, IRNA—The Presidential Bureau denied a report published in London alleging that Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani had sent a message to U.S. President George Bush on the hostage crisis in Lebanon.

The Sunday SUNDAY TIMES reported that Hashemi-Rafsanjani had sent the message three days before he took his oath on Thursday.

But an official at this bureau told the TEHRAN TIMES: "It's a bundle of lies."

"Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's stand is the same as what he mentioned in his Friday prayer sermon in Tehran last Friday," said the unnamed official.

In his address, Hashemi-Rafsanjani advised U.S. not to use force in Lebanon as it had proved to be useless in the past and instead be reasonable. He also offered Iran's assistance in this regard.

"Observers here firmly believe that Hashemi-Rafsanjani's offer of help to defuse the present problem is conditional," the daily said.

It added "he drew the attention of the West and specially the United States [to the fact] that priority attention should be given to the crux of the problem and that is justice to the people of Lebanon whose basic social, political, economic and religious rights have been trampled upon for the last many years.

Foreign Ministry Refuses To Accept U.S. Message
LD0508101989 Tehran IRNA in English 1015 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 5, IRNA—The Islamic Republic refused to accept a message from the U.S. Government on events in Lebanon because it did not concern Iran.

"The U.S. Administration sent a message to Iran's Foreign Ministry last week through a third country. Since the content had nothing to do with Iran, the message was not accepted," a Foreign Ministry official who asked not to be named told IRNA.

He was responding to reports that U.S. President George Bush had sent a message asking Iran to prevent the killing of Western hostages in Lebanon.

The crisis was triggered by the Israeli kidnapping of a prominent Lebanese Friday prayer leader, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd.

U.S. Fleet Heading Toward Middle East
LD0408122289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Following a joint meeting between U.S. President George Bush and his advisers on reaching a decision with regard to U.S. reaction toward the hostage crisis, a fleet of U.S. warships sailed for the Middle East. UNITED PRESS, while transmitting the above report, added: The U.S. Navy announced on Wednesday that the missile frigate "USS Black Knight," which was sailing toward one of the Soviet ports in the Black Sea, was ordered to change course. No further details were given in this report.

The U.S. Senate approved a resolution supporting retaliatory action against those who are holding U.S. hostages captive in Lebanon in the event other hostages are killed. A U.S. radio station in its news reports on Friday morning, while announcing the above, added: In this resolution, which is not binding and which was approved yesterday by voice vote, the need for immediate release of the hostages was been stressed.

U.S. Senate Approves Vengeance Against Abductors
LD0408210189 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] The U.S. Senate has approved acts of vengeance committed against those who have U.S. hostages in captivity. With its approval of a resolution, the U.S. Senate has given its support to acts of vengeance by the United States against those who hold U.S. hostages in captivity in Lebanon, if other hostages are killed. This resolution, which is not binding, calls on the kidnappers to immediately release the hostages.

U.S. Hopes To Extradite, Charge 'Ubayd
LD0408232689 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Following the intensification of international public opinion against the action of the regime occupying Jerusalem in abducting Shaykh 'Ubayd, Yitzhaq Rabin, the Zionist regime's war minister, unexpectedly claimed in a television interview, with the aim of misleading public opinion, that Shaykh 'Ubayd played an important role in the kidnapping of Colonel Higgins in 1988.

In the meantime, with a similar propaganda act to that of the Zionist regime, the U.S. Justice Department, at the same time as the claim of the war minister of the regime occupying Jerusalem, announced that they are examining U.S. laws with the aim of finding evidence against Shaykh 'Ubayd for the purpose of accusing him of abducting and killing Colonel Higgins and requesting his extradition from Israel.

Commentary on U.S. Approach to Hostage Issue

LD0508211289 Tehran in English to Europe 1952 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the wake of the culmination of the hostages crisis in Lebanon, U.S. warships on Friday, that is on the [word indistinct] maintained their alertness to carry out any sort of hostile operation. It is said that the U.S. President, George Bush, too, has maintained readiness to issue an order for attacking suspected places in the event the threat to kill the U.S. national Joseph Ciccipio, held hostage in Lebanon, is effected. Despite this, while some diplomatic efforts are under way at various levels to solve the recent hostage-taking crisis and to get the release and or exchange of those hostages, some sources in America still maintain the belief that in case these efforts meet with failure, Washington should use its military force, without any delay.

In a [words indistinct] of thinking in approaching the hostage issue, one point is certain: Previous U.S. moves of military aggression and adoption of such measures in various regions are indicative of the fact that these threats have never proved to be a fundamental and total option to resolve the issues and problems, and in this connection, U.S. military forces have not gained any successful experience, at least during the past several years. Therefore, in order to trace the root of the problem in a rational manner and review various aspects of the hostages crisis to find a comprehensive solution, there is a need to create a favorable atmosphere in the region.

The invasive and terroristic act of the Zionist regime in abducting Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd can be described as the starting point of a new crisis kin hostagetaking in the area. Had White House officials not remained indifferent towards this overt terrorist move which has ignored Lebanon's sovereignty and national interest and had they put pressure on the Jerusalem-occupying regime, the hostage issue would have assumed a different form today.

The attitude of U.S. officials toward the issue of hostagetaking, especially toward the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd, is indicative of their hegemonistic and imperialistic behavior as they constantly are trying to resolve issues through bullying and (?pressure). However, present conditions in the region along with the vigilance and awareness of the people on the regional level indicate that these people will not be intimidated by such threats, because U.S. military aggression in the region will (?no doubt) lead to further disgrace and defames Washington.

Therefore, the release of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd by the Zionist regime can be a prelude to finding suitable ways for resolving the hostage issue in Lebanon; otherwise, the (?West) and Israeli collaboration in carrying out this terrorist act leading to the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd is bound to be further exposed. The reason is that according to informed source, the U.S. Justice Department is currently looking for certain documents against Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, apparently in order to accuse him of abducting Colonel Higgins and thus ask Israel to extradite him. Such a measure, on the part of America, throws further light on the country's role in creating the current crisis in the hostage issue.

U.S. 'Bullying' Will Not Resolve Hostage Crisis

LD0508132289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1056 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Unattributed commentary: "New Climate in the Issue of Hostage Crisis in Lebanon"]

[Text] Following the announcement by the underground Revolutionary Justice Organization that it will not execute U.S. hostage Joseph Cicippio for the time being, it seems that a kind of calm has evolved concerning the issue of the hostage crisis, and now the responsibility lies on the United States and Israel to show how prepared they are to resolve this crisis as soon as possible.

According to commentators, the United States and Israel should refrain from any action which may further complicate the situation, and Washington should look for realistic and just solutions. So far, the main difficulty has been that the United States, along with Israel, think that they can simply do whatever they want, and that they can deny responsibility for any unpleasant consequences of their actions, placing the blame on others.

There is no doubt that Israel's terrorist action in kidnapping Shaykh 'Ubayd is the real cause of the recent crisis. It is said that the probability existed that Colonel Higgins—the U.S. officer member of the UN forces who was executed a short time ago by the underground Organization of the Oppressed on Earth in retaliation for the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd—had been on the verge of being released. Nabih Birri, Lebanon's minister of justice, stressed that Higgins was about to be released. However, the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd led to his death. Therefore, the main responsibility for the execution of Colonel Higgins rests with Israel.

The attempts of that regime and some U.S. commentators to insinuate that this U.S. hostage had already been executed is a defeatist explanation. The other U.S. and Israeli mistake is that they are still trying to intimidate Lebanese organizations by resorting to force and showing their military might. It seems U.S. officials do not know that it is impossible to frighten the secret or open Lebanese organizations by dispatching war fleets to the Mediterranean. The possibility of bombing targets in Lebanon, or even the assassination of some combative Islamic figures, will never resolve the present difficulty. Even now, the Lebanese people spend their days and nights under the fire of shells and mortars.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has announced, through the words of its new president, that it is ready to assist in resolving the crisis of the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd and Western hostages within the framework of a just solution. The remarks of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani have had great repercussions throughout the world and even Washington welcomed them. However, even under present conditions, the approach of U.S. officials is such that it shows that they are not yet willing to see that the crisis will be solved. Although our president did not provide more details regarding what he termed a sane and sensible solution, it seems that in the first instance Washington should refrain from any action which might increase tension and might further complicate the issue.

The fact that the U.S. ministry of justice [as heard] has announced that it is searching for ways for the return of Shaykh 'Ubayd so that he might be tried in the United States for his alleged involvement in the kidnapping of Colonel Higgins will be of no help in solving Lebanon's crisis. On the contrary, it will add to its complexity.

In the view of political circles in Lebanon, U.S. officials should, before anything else and in view of the conditions existing in Lebanon, understand that the exertion of propaganda or political pressures, or resorting to military action has no role, and that this crisis cannot be solved through force and bullying.

TEHRAN TIMES Comments on U.S. Moves

LD0508092689 Tehran IRNA in English 0913 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 5, IRNA—It was now up to the U.S. to take the next step in the Lebanese hostage crisis and show whether it would continue Ronald Reagan's gung ho policies or use "more civilized" methods, an Iranian daily said.

The TEHRAN TIMES also called for action to restrain both Israel and its enemies from terrorism and extreme action.

"The ball has now been swiped right across to the U.S. court" said the TEHRAN TIMES in an editorial on President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's offer Friday for a peaceful end to the hostages issue.

"It will depend very much on them (U.S. officials) whether they wish to act with caution and prudence and accept Rafsanjani's move amenably, or to follow (Reagan's) the brash foreign policy courses..."

In his first foreign policy step since taking office on Thursday, the president addressed the White House in his Friday prayers sermon and said reason, not military action, was the answer to the problem.

He said Tehran was willing to help.

The region was thrown in chaos when Israeli commandos crossed into south Lebanon and kidnapped Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and two relatives from his home on July 28.

Three days later the captors of Lt. Col. William Higgins claimed they had executed the American Marine because Tel Aviv had refused to free the prominent Lebanese religious leader.

Following a threat by [as received] to kill another American hostage, the U.S. ordered its battleships to sail towards Lebanon and take retaliatory action if the threat was carried through.

The TEHRAN TIMES said Israel should not be allowed to continue terrorist actions with impunity and those provoked by the Zionists should not react in a way that could cause more bloodshed.

"Israel should not be allowed to get away with its mischief and those provoked by it should be restrained from too extreme actions than can lead to turmoil," it said.

"Hashemi-Rafsanjani's remarks are timely and in the right spirit... All ill-concieved actions, threats of war and intimidation can only add to the momentum of a vicious circle of evil that has gripped the a world controlled by superpowers with selfish vision.

"Hashemi-Rafsanjani's was a call to sobriety which should be taken up."

In an interview with the paper also published Saturday, the head of the Majlis Foreign Relations Committee condemned Higgins' reported execution but blamed Israel.

"I deeply regret the reported killing of the U.S. hostage but Israel should be blamed for the tragedy," said Iran's former U.N. Ambassador Seyyed Raja'i Khorasani.

He said what the Israeli kidnapping amounted to sponsoring state terrorism while individual groups in Lebanon operated on the basis of genuine grievances.

"We however condemn every type of kidnapping particularly of innocent people," he said.

Majlis Deputies Criticized for Voicing 'Regret'

LD0708075889 Tehran IRNA in English 0745 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 7, IRNA—One daily on Monday called on all parties in the hostage crisis to get work out [as received] a joint solution while another described two Majlis deputies as "certainly undignified" for expressing regret over the reported death of an American hostage.

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL saw no doubt that Lt. Col. William Higgins, claimed executed by his Lebanese captors last week, spied on Muslim guerrillas in south Lebanon for the Israelis and probably many Lebanese and Palestinians died as result of his activities.

"It is against this background that both Dr (Seyyed) Raja'i Khorasani and Mr Sadeq Khalkhali's expressions of both 'deep regret' and just plain 'regret' can be labled as misplaced mourning," it said in an editorial.

Khorasani and Khalkhali are the present and former heads of the Majlis Foreign Relations Committee.

In an interview published Saturday, Khorasani said he deeply regretted the unconfirmed death of the American Marine but stressed Israel was to blame because its kidnapping of Lebanese Friday prayer leader Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd incited the killing.

Khalkhali, a deputy from Qom, expressed his regret in a speech prior to president-elect Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Friday prayers sermon in which he called for a realistic solution to the crisis.

"Which U.S. lawmaker expressed regret over the American slaughter of 290 civilians, not spies, on July 3, 1988 (in the Iran air tragedy)?... Who sent a sympathetic word of the death of our beloved imam? Relief and thinly veiled glee were the order of the day for American officialdom."

The paper stressed that it was "inconceivable that Imam Khomeyni would have condoled anyone" on Higgins' reported death.

However KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL still believed Hashemi-Rafsanjani's offer to end the hostage issue "did not come as a bolt out of the blue" and described his offer as "quite logical" way to end the crisis.

The TEHRAN TIMES meanwhile urged all countries involved to draw a joint plan to free all hostages, including Iranians believed held by Christian Lebanese forces.

"To resolve the current crisis all the parties with some interest must unite in adopting a realistic and humanitarian strategy and then hope for results accelerating the release of all the people in captivity.

"To do so, all individual interest must be set aside to prevent the crisis from turning into an episode of regional and international conflict," it said.

It said Iran was ready to carry its "historical responsibility" and work for the freedom of all the hostages but said the immediate U.S. reaction to this offer was "a bit hasty" and the Americans "did not understand" what Iran meant.

The editorial added that Iran as an Islamic state could not advocate kidnapping as a means to meet ends and that the offer of assistance was "simply due to the humanitarian stand it holds so dear."

"As a matter of principle Iran believes that all hostages irrespective of their nationalities should be immediately released and that of course includes Iranian hostaes kidnapped years ago in Lebanon."

In an article published in the TEHRAN TIMES Monday, Iran's former deputy foreign minister said the Zionists were creating a "euphoria" to prove that Shaykh 'Ubayd kidnapping was indeed a humanitarian move.

"So, the Israelis not only committed no crime... But they accomplished an important humanitarian task," gibed Dr Mohammad Javad Larijani, a regular contribute to the paper.

If the Israeli plan did became reality and the hostages were eventually freed, then it would suggest that terrorism was not always bad, he noted.

"Are the American and European politicians aware that never in the recent political history terrorism got such an international promotion?"

Editorial Sees 'More Complications' Over Abduction
NC0608111089 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 30 Jul 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Zionists Call For Trouble With 'Ubayd Abduction"]

[Text] More complications are in store over the hostage taking questions in Lebanon after the terrorist abduction by Zionists of a leading Friday prayer leader in the village of Jibshit in south Lebanon.

The prominent prayer leader was abducted from his home by Israeli commandos who whisked him away in a helicopter waiting close by.

Shaykh 'Ubayd has been accused by the Zionists of masterminding Hizbollah operations against them in the region. But this kind of official terrorist action can only serve to complicate matters further and may escalate a trend which can be difficult to contain.

This is not the first time in which the Zionists have carried out such inhuman acts of terrorism supposedly for tactical reasons. The objectives this time could be to gain intelligence information on the Hizbollah, Amal and other Islamic organizations who operate in South Lebanon and with whom the Shaykh was possibly in touch. The two groups recently have agreed to act in concert and the abduction is in all likelihood an attempt to know more of the strategy they have agreed to employ against the Zionists in Lebanon. The agrement was signed recently in Tehran.

Another objective could possibly be related to the fate of the kidnapped American Colonel Higgins. When the American was abducted in Lebanon accusing fingers pointed at pro-Iranian groups and some even said that Higgins had spent several days in the home of Shaykh 'Ubayd. So it can be that the Israelis wish to gather information on the hostage Higgins. But the link between Shaykh 'Ubayd and the hostage taking of Higgins has never been proved.

Shaykh Raghib Harb, the former Imam of Jibshit, was killed in a similar action by Israeli terrorist units in 1986 and his house was blown up later. The Zionist regime, therefore, remains solely responsible for the safety of the Shaykh.

Still another aspect to this abduction is how far it will prove the sincerity of human rights organizations and the international community. Their positions and the manner in wich they will handle this case can indicate how serious they are on the matter of hostage taking and human rights abuses.

It should be noted in the meantime that actions such as this on can disturb the psycho-political atmosphere needed for ending hostage taking in Lebanon once and for all. The Zionists have introduced a new threat to humanitarian efforts to release hostages in Lebanon by taking yet another.

CIA, Mosad 'Coordinated' 'Ubayd Abduction

LD0508193389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] The VAHDAT-E ESLAMI magazine, published in Beirut, cites Islamic sources in its report on extensive contacts between the U.S. espionage organization and the Zionist regime—CIA and Mosad—stating that these indicate that these two organizations closely coordinated on the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd and supervised the operation. Citing the same sources, the magazine added: The United States and the Zionist regime had intended to hijack an aircraft carrying a number of Lebanese Muslim dignatories returning from Tehran to Damascus. However, this plan was foiled because the flight's departure time was uncertain.

Perez de Cuellar Affirms Efforts for Release

LD0408123389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has said that he will make efforts to secure the release of all the hostages in Lebanon. According to a REUTER report, the UN secretary general, who was speaking to correspondents after the Security Council's secret session yesterday, added: Our efforts will not be aimed at the release of any particular hostages, such as Americans or Britons. Instead we will try to secure the release of all the hostages. For instance, we are well aware that there are Iranian hostages being held in Lebanon and we are making endeavors for their release, too.

Velayati Receives Shevardnadze Message

LD0608173189 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 6, IRNA—Visiting Pakistani Minister of Food, Agriculture and Cooperative Rao Sinkandar Iqbal met with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Sunday.

The two ministers discussed expansion of mutual ties and stressed the need for exchange of expertise in various fields and for the continuation of contacts between officials of the two countries.

In a separate meeting today, Velayati discussed latest developments in Afghanistan with leader of Harakat-e Eslami (Islamic Movement) Ayatollah Asef Mohseni.

The foreign minister also received a verbal message from his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze by the USSR ambassador to Tehran Vladimir V. Gudev, Saturday.

In his message, Shevardnadze announced his country's willingness to exchange constructive views with the Islamic Republic of Iran on regional issues.

In reply Velayati said that Iran was prepared to strengthen its ties with the Soviet Union on the basis of good-neighborly relations.

Cabinet Receives List of Joint Soviet Projects

LD0308084389 Tehran IRNA in English 1428 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug.2 , IRNA—A list of joint Tehran-Moscow projects on economic and technical cooperation agreed between the two countries were presented to the cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi-Ardabili Wednesday [2 August].

The list of the first stage of the major projects was presented to the Cabinet by Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs and head of Iran-Soviet Joint Economic Commission Mohammad Javad Iravani.

The agreements were reached during last month's Moscow visit of President-elect Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The list includes:
—Expansion of Shahid Montazeri and Ramin power plants in Isfahan and Ahvaz with a total capacity of 1,430 mega watts.
—Establishment of Khoda Afarin and Dez Qal'eh-si water and power installations with a total capacity of 140 mega watts.

—Two power plants on the Karun river with a capacity of 3,670 mega watts.
—Construction of other power plants with a combined capacity of 2,000 mega watts.
—Establishment of reserve dam on Harirud and Atrak rivers.
—Espansion of Isfahan steel mill with annual production capacity of four million tons of steel.
—Steel rolling mills in Khorasan, Hormozgan and Azarbaijan Provinces.
—Gas pressure relay station (s-1) for the second nationwide pipe line and completion of this line.
—Mashhad-Sarakhs and Mashhad-Bafq railroads.

Industrial Cooperation With USSR To Increase

LD0508200989 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Iran will export 1,000 passenger and freight railway cars to the Soviet Union each year. Announcing this news in a discussion of Iranian-Soviet cooperation, Minister of Heavy Industries Behzad Nabavi added that the Esfarayen foundation plan, which will be implemented with Soviet cooperation, is a huge plan for blacksmithing and molding. The expected capacity is approximately 130,000 tonnes each year. This unit will produce parts and instruments for factories.

During the interview, Mr Nabavi added that the grounds for agreement are primarily based on technology transfer and said that we have entered discussions with them [Soviet Union] in the fields of capital investments in major industries and infrastructural installations.

On reviewing the areas of cooperation the heavy industries minister added that all the issues will be reviewed and final agreements will be made during the visit by the Soviet foreign economy minister, who will arrive in Tehran in approximately 1 month.

Industrial Ties With PRC To Top $500 Million

LD0208223389 Tehran IRNA in English 1457 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 2, IRNA—The value of Tehran-Beijing industrial cooperation is to top $500 million according to a letter of understanding.

Deputy Heavy Industries Minister Mohsen Mehrlizadeh, just back from China, said Wednesday that the value had been predicted at $100 million in the previous letter of understanding last year.

The new agreement was signed by Mehralizadeh and Chinese deputy minister of machine building and electronics industry Zhao Ming. "The letter would turn the mere commercial relations into an industrial and technical one," he said.

The two countries also agreed on design and manufacture of two 300-mega-watt steam generators in the southeastern province of Kerman. Necessary equipment would be manufactured partly in Iran and partly in China, and Iranians would install the units under joint supervision.

Establishment of a paper factory with a daily capacity of 50 tons in one of the Caspian cities has also been included in the agreement.

Mahralizadeh said 60 percent of equipment for sugar refining plants would also be manufactured in Iran with cooperation of China.

He said crane-mounted trucks with capacities of 3, 5, 8 and 20 tons will also be produced through joint cooperation, using domestic facilities.

Assembly of Experts To Confirm Khamene'i Leader

LD0608064789 Tehran IRNA in English 0645 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 6, IRNA—The Assembly of Experts meet Sunday to decide on the leadership following the approval of constitutional amendments in the July 28 referendum, press reports said.

"It is predicted that the experts in their meeting today will renew and reaffirm their approval of Ayatollah ('Ali) Khamene'i's leadership," the daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said.

The overwhelming majority of the 83-member assembly chose Khamene'i as leader a day after the death of Imam Khomeyni on June 3.

It was suggested then that the selection was temporary until experts meet again for a permanent decision after the referendum.

More than 97 percent voted in favor of amendments to the 1979 document, allowing a mojtahed, or qualified Islamic jurist, to become leader after approval by the experts.

Previously candidates for leadership were required to be a marja', or paramount Islamic leader. Ayatollah Khamene'i, 50, is a mojtahed.

The late imam—himself was a marja'—citing problems in finding a marja' who was also aware of political issues necesary for running a state, had urged the amendment shortly before his death.

The experts were to meet in a extraordinary session at 9 am (05:30 GMT) at the Majlis building, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said.

Reinstating Ayatollah Khamene'i would be another step towards consolidating the state following the election of Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani as president. Hashemi-Rafsanjani was sworn in last Thursday.

The TEHRAN TIMES said 74 experts had been invited to the Experts Assembly session, two less than the number who took part in the June 4 meeting. It did not explain why.

Four-fifths of the experts voted in favor of Khamene'i last time, after rejecting a proposal to set up a leadership council.

The swift selection of the leader after the imam passed away surprised many outside Iran who were expecting an intense power struggle instead.

It emerged during the June 4 meeting of the assembly that the imam had three times suggested his approval of Khamene'i as the future leader.

Since his selection, the ayatollah has received support from senior religious leaders in Qom, and unanimous pledge of loyalty from state officials and the armed forces.

Holds Extraordinary Session

LD0608120189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] The Assembly of Experts held an extraordinary session 6 August. Ayatollah Meshkini, the speaker of the Assembly of Experts, opened the session with a brief speech remarking on the magnitude and strength of the Islamic revolution and the extensive and glorious presence of the Islamic ummah in the funeral and mourning ceremonies of his eminence, the imam of the ummah—may God's benediction be upon him—and the ceremonies pledging allegiance to the great leader of the revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. He also praised the people's unprecedented and extensive participation in the constitutional referendum and the presidential elections. He said: This matter has been a cause of happiness for Muslims around the world and despair for all counterrevolutionaries and enemies of Islam, as well as of confessions by friends and foes to the alacrity and progress of the Islamic nation. He also lauded the praise worthy coordination displayed by the officials and the three branches of government under the leadership's guidance.

Ayatollah Meshkini's speech was reportedly followed by the election of the board of directors: Ayatollah Meshkini was elected speaker; Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani was elected first deputy speaker; Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mo'men and Hojjat ol-Eslam Taheri-Khoramabadi were elected secretaries.

Then the session dealt with the agenda, and the new articles of the constitution pertaining to leadership were debated. On the characteristics, prerequisites, responsibilities, and prerogatives of the leader under the new constitution, the nation's experts affirmed the leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Haj Seyyed 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i in a unanimous decisive majority vote confirming the previous vote. The Assembly of Expert's session is reported to have ended at 1130 this morning.

Khamene'i Thanks Assembly, Nation

LD0608184589

[Editorial report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1655 GMT on 6 August carries a 29-minute recording of the Assembly of Experts session to confirm Ayatollah Khamene'i's leadership. Ayatollah Meshkini opens the Assembly, expressing the special pleasure he experienced whenever he met Ayatollah Khomeyni. He expresses gratitude to God that following Khomeyni's death a trustworthy successor was found.

At 1700 GMT Meshkini speaks of the assembly members' commitment to Khamene'i and notes their resolve to serve him. He states that in this session the assembly members agreed that Khamene'i possesses all the necessary qualifications and says that only two or three members did not vote for Khamene'i. He says that with God's help everyone will be successful in carrying out the grave tasks ahead; he prays for the leader and for the nation.

At 1711 GMT Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i thanks all his guests for their good will and for the trust they have placed in him. He prays to God for success and, submitting to the will of God, accepts the grave responsibility of leadership. He notes that all problems can be overcome with everyone's cooperation. He expresses the hope that great things will be achieved for the Islamic Republic but says that even if great wealth and comfort are not achieved, the nation will remain proud and behave according to Islamic duty.

At 1723 GMT Khamene'i concludes by thanking his guests and asking for their prayers.

Papers Comment on Confirmation

LD0708062989 Tehran IRNA in English 0622 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 7, IRNA—Two morning dailies commented on Sunday's extraordinary session of the Assembly of Experts which confirmed the leadership of Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i under the reformed constitution.

JOMHURI-YE ISLAMI said the session and its unanimous approval of Ayatollah Khamene'i's leadership was in fact confirmation that the line of the late Imam

Khomeyni would continue unceasingly. This was a sign of hope for the supporters of the Islamic revolution and disappointment for its enemies.

The Iranian nation would always remember that the assembly played the greatest and most effective role in consolidating political life in the country, it said.

The daily ABRAR said the assembly, by reconvening and reaffirming Khamene'i's leadership, showed it attached great importance to rule of law.

The outstanding harmony among the three branches of the government over the issue of leadership followed by the presidential elections had stunned the world, it said.

"What remains to be settled is the formation of the new cabinet with the selection of individuals who are the best choice for the period of reconstruction," ABRAR added.

It believed there were enough experienced and committed people to handle ministerial tasks successfully, work to rebuild the economy and ease economic pressures on the people.

TEHRAN TIMES on Implications of Elections

NC0608111689 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 29 Jul 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Elections—A Promise for Future With Hard Work Ahead"]

[Text] Millions of Iranians across the country and abroad yesterday went to polling booths to cast their votes in the fifth presidential elections of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iranians also concurrently cast 'yes' 'no' [as published] votes in a referendum for approval of amendments to the constitution of the Islamic Republic.

The two candidates in the presidential race were Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Majlis Deputy 'Abbas Sheybani. While political speculation and analyses squarely indicate an indubitable and straight win for Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, although Mr. Sheybani has not been idle in trying to draw as many of the votes as possible his way. [sentence as published]

Final results are expected to be announced later this week as it will be some time before the officials of the Interior Ministry are able to collect the figures on the balloting from far-flung areas in Iran and abroad.

Whatever the results the most significant aspect of this election and of the referendum is that the Islamic Revolution will be now moving into a new phase in its history and this can perhaps be highly important for a number of reasons.

First, because these elections are being held for the first time in the absence of the Founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeyni, who passed away on June 3.

The absence of the Imam puts much greater vital responsibilities on the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran. These officials, nevertheless have so far after the passing away of the Imam gone on to prove that they are indeed the true heirs to the legacy of the Imam; this they have done through their unified and united stances on all issues connected with the revolution and the country. It is our hope that they will continue to do in the future too.

Another very important and noteworthy aspect of the Friday elections is the very visible fund of hope and aspiration in the feelings of the people seeking new vistas for the future especially in regard to brighter and stronger economic conditions in the country.

As we write today, we are well aware that the next administration of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be far better placed to govern compared to the dout-going administration because amendments to the Constitution once they are approved by the nation,will eliminate many bottlenecks hitherto prevalent in the way of smooth and effective administrative decisions and activities.

Secondly, the country is now in a situation in which there is no active war on its borders even though the U.N. sponsored peace talks are as yet meandering aimlessly along. But we can still hope that world opinion can be mustered to exert the needed pressure on the Iraqi Regime to return to the negotiating table and agree rationally and amenably to work towards a durable peace not only between Iran and Iraq but in the region as well.

While the nation today is full with an air of great expectations, one should not be led indiscreetly to expect miracles from the new administration to come. The new administration, it must be again said, needs to rebuild the economy of our country which has been subject to battering as a result of the war and is certainly not as vibrantly healthy as it should and can be.

We are not, however, being pessimistic, nor do we wish to dampen the high expectations that are being generated at this crucial turning of the nation's history. We are sure that next administration will do all in its capacity to get the nation moving forward to a better and still better future. We have learnt to be self-sufficient and will be so, since no one is going to come from abroad to rescue us when in need. What we need most is faith first and then efficiency, patience and hard work as we move along. It is we who will have to start the wheels moving towards a greater future ahead of us and we have to do this even if it has to be from scratch and God-willing success can be ours. This is indeed the best tribute we can pay our Imam; to nurture and preserve the fruits of the Islamic Revolution which he envisioned and set in motion.

RESALAT Interviews Hashemi-Rafsanjani

NC0408073589 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 26 Jul 89 p 3

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani by unidentified correspondent; date, place not given]

[Text] [Correspondent] It seems that the country's biggest problem is the current economic situation and the existing stagnation. The war was responsible for some of our present economic problems. But apart from the war, where does the current economic situation stem from: the "absence of a program," "the absence of the necessary financial means and sufficient political security, or bad management in the country's executive system and the existing outlook of the policy-makers of the country's executive branch in the economic field" during the past decade? Which one of these would you point to in order to seek a solution to the economic problems?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I consider the economic problem and the current stagnation to stem from the lack of financial resources. There are also two other things that have played a part in this. Of course, under the past regime, the country's situation was such that there was an abundance of foreign exchange from the sale of oil and anyone could import anything he wanted from abroad. The plants that were set up were assembly plants. In other words, the parts were imported from abroad and assembled here. There was no foreign exchange limitation, and even the government encouraged the people to spend and the merchants to import. At the same time, during the last phases of that regime's life, because of the expansion of the cities and increase in demand, inflation was rapidly and steeply rising. With all the foreign exchange that existed and the investments by foreign companies in the country, shortages were felt. Major projects were given to foreign contractors and foreign companies brought the tools they needed with them. Foreign investment in the form of goods and services entered the country. But after the victory of the Islamic revolution, these practices did not conform with our Islamic policy of national independence, and they were stopped. The sale of oil dropped; the import of consumer goods and foreign investments were reduced, and since local investors had been dependent on the past regime, they exported their capital in various ways. Meanwhile, the war started, and the country's resources began to be channelled into the war effort. In parallel with the decrease in resources, the people's demands increased, and the country's potentials were divided equally among the people. Welfare facilities such as water, electricity, and roads were provided for the deprived areas of the country, and rationed goods were fairly distributed throughout the country.

Workers' wages suddenly rose, and this led to an increase in the purchasing power of the people. The population rapidly increased, and in addition there was an influx of Iraqi and Afghan refugees. In view of all these pressures, I think that devoted and experienced people can manage the country better. We did have devoted people, but there was not very much experience. Of course, the conditions should be created for the people to put their capital to work, and the cash flow of the private sector which is in the hands of individuals and banks should be put to work with the promise that the people will be employed in the field of production. I think that in this way the situation will improve. Of course, our situation is very different from that of the past because in these 10 years there were confiscations. Those who wanted to leave have left and the war has stopped. Therefore, on the whole one can say that a large proportion of the problems is due to a shortage in financial resources and a small proportion is due to bad management and narrow-mindedness.

[Correspondent] What can be done, in Your Excellency's opinion, to employ small amounts of capital?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This is the way out of the problem. The current government thought this, too. It is wrong for everything to be done by the government. I think that the government should do what the Constitution states that it should do, and that the private sector should confidently enter the scene and feel safe. Therefore, all efforts should be directed toward production. If we neglect production, then we will have been harmed once again.

[Correspondent] In view of the fact that in 1362 [year beginning 20 March 1983] we had the highest foreign exchange income in comparison with other years, was the country's policy-making directed more at increasing production or at increasing the availability of consumer goods through imports?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Between 1983 and 1985, when our foreign exchange situation was good, production increased too. Storerooms were filled up during those couple of years. In those years, the economic siege was broken slightly and production increased. Of course, from 1986 onwards, because of the reduction in foreign exchange, production decreased.

[Correspondent] As an expert, what is the pattern that you have in mind as far as industrialization and industrial development are concerned? Which country do you take as a pattern for industrialization, or will we form our own pattern on the basis of our own needs?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In our 5-year program, we have worked out the direction in which we want to move. For example, we must build up the steel, machine-building, and petrochemical industries and... activate domestic potentials. We will strengthen those industries that will do away with our need for tools. Also, we will accord priority to infrastructural activities and try to satisfy the minimum needs of the people, so that we will relieve the deprived strata of the pressures. The experiences of

others will most probably be used in the industrialization process. However, with our own 10 years of experience, we have a specific pattern. Therefore, we will have our own pattern.

[Correspondent] It is said that Your Excellency supports the idea of an economic opening-up. Does this mean moving away from government centralization in economic affairs? Will the rationing system continue, and if yes, in what form and what way? What is Your Excellency's plan for increasing industrial production and reducing government expenditures, the high level of the latter being among the major causes of inflation?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Everyone wants some of the burden that is on the shoulders of the poor to be reduced; and in my opinion, the only way to achieve this is to increase industrial output. We should supply the farmers, in any way possible, with fertilizers, pesticides, and farming equipment so that they can produce more. This is a specific job which I want to complete. Rationing can end only when the poor can freely purchase everything in the market. Everyone wants the rationing to end, but the people continue to receive some of their staple goods through coupons.

The rationing of gas and oil which started with the war may end in the future. We will try gradually to end the rationing of some other goods as well. Our wish is not to have something called rationing. But this is not something that we can do without planning. If we do, then we will ultimately end up back where we started.

[Correspondent] What program do you have in mind to control liquidity?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] There is a special policy which has been incorporated in the 5-year plan for the greater use of capital for production purposes. At present most of the cash is in the hands of the banks. We will endeavor to see that this capital is utilized for production. In general, production is on a par with economic prosperity and independence in terms of priority and it is the key to all problems. Therefore we are trying to divert liquidity toward production.

[Correspondent] Do you have any program for the sale of those factories the administration of which, according to the Constitution is not the responsibility of the government?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This has been approved in the reconstruction program. We referred this issue to the imam and he endorsed it. However, in this regard, we will not move in such a way that the vices of the past system of monopolies are repeated. The crux of the matter is that we should have a healthy system of production.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, what policy will you follow, after being elected, for choosing directors and ministers?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Persons should be selected who are revolutionary, expert, and dedicated. Praise be to God, we have many such people. They should combine these qualities with an overall vision. It is not enough to have expertise and be totally bereft of political insight. We will endeavor to utilize the various abilities of all the forces.

[Correspondent] With the passage of 1 year since the acceptance of Resolution 598 and the implementation of a cease-fire, no practical steps have been taken so far for the implementation of the resolution because of Iraq's obstructionism. What policy will you adopt for the implementation of the Resolution 598? Are we to depend solely on the Security Council for the implementation of the resolution?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The most important thing is that we should be strong. This situation of neither war nor peace is not to our benefit and neither is it of advantage to Iraq, which is bearing the brunt more than we are. With its limited population, Iraq is forced to maintain large numbers of forces at the fronts. Even during the war, the bulk of our fighting forces were the mobilization forces, who are now engaged in various activities such as agriculture. In addition, the issue of the Arvand River [Shatt al-'Arab waterway] is a vital one for Iraq, but not for us. We have such a vast coastline and many ports; even Khorramshahr and Abadan are only a small part of these. However we do sustain losses if the Arvand River is not used. Two of our cities do not have ports, but we have the Bahmanshir River in the vicinity of the Arvand River which for us has the same use as the Arvand River. If we employ the same forces in Bahmanshir as we would for the Arvand River, the neighboring ports would be on the same level as Abadan and Khorramshahr. It is possible that Iraq may say, as part of its propaganda, that it will use 'Umm al-Qasr and Khawr 'Abdallah but these will not have the same level of efficiency as al-Basrah, al-Faw, and 'Umm al-Khusayb. This segment is of utmost importance to Iraq and, in the lomg run, Iraq will not be able to ignore the Arvand River, although we can do so forever. Besides, because of the existing conditions, Iraq has been forced to evacuate its borders to a depth of 30 km, at great cost. It has even included the Syrian border in this plan—that is, Iraq wishes to evacuate all those of its citizens who are living within a radius of 30 km from the borders to areas within the country. Such a situation for a country that is already riddled with debts and has so many problems and difficulties cannot continue for long.

For such a scanty population, Iraq has many POW's in Iran, and I am sure its people also know who is to blame. If it does not withdraw from our territory, its prisoners will not be released, and this is something of which all are aware. If Iraq evacuates our territory, the first thing

we will do is release the POW's. Besides, according to figures announced, Iraq has a debt of $70 billion, and we think it is much more. We know that in view of Iraq's debts, the investments by so many countries, the war situation is not very satisfactory for Iraq. However, we do not have any such debts. On the whole, the burden of the situation of neither war nor peace is greater on Iraq than on us and therefore it cannot sustain it for long. As a matter of fact, war also does not benefit Iraq. Iraq has suffered greater hardship in the course of the 8 years of war. Every second it feared that we were going to capture one of its cities, and that is why it was under greater pressure. In my opinion, the situation of neither war nor peace cannot continue for long. As for looking to the Security Council, there are those in it who have the power, but they also imposed this war on us. Some of them are also opposing peace. Their position of strength depends on if the pressure is on us, or perhaps Iraq may be driven to accept peace. However the Security Council has certain obligations which it must fulfill.

[Correspondent] It appears that the West may wish to use Iraq as a lever to exert pressure against the Islamic revolution in the region and for this purpose, it may be ready to pay the price. What will be our defense strategy for this? Will we enter into an arms race with the Iraqi regime in view of the fact that the West has armed Iraq with modern armaments even after the acceptance of the resolution?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Yes. The Westerners wish to retain Iraq as a foil to the Islamic revolution. However, in light of the explanations I have stated earlier, how long can Iraq sustain such pressure? If Iraq wishes to be an agent of the West, it will have to do so at the exclusion of all else in order to tackle the revolution. Iraq's initiation of the war and its consequences have given it cause for regret. It would not be able to continue ignoring its national interests and to obey the orders of the West in the long term, as nations are now aware. Besides, the Westerners also have some fears. They worry that one day the Iraqi nation might stage a revolution and that the situation which occurred in Iran will be repeated—for they strengthened Iran during the shah's time and this is what happened. We were able to resist Iraq for 8 years. In any case, Iraq is part of the Arab world and in general, the Arabs do not get along well with Israel, even though the Arab leaders have relinquished some of the aspirations of the Arabs and wish to compromise with Israel. The Arab community does not accept them, however. In fact, the time has come for the Arab community to make a decision on Palestine. The Westerners cannot leave the hands of a pro-Western country open indefinitely. [sentence as published] They are apprehensive in case the day comes when these possibilities may fall in the hands of the people and the interests of the West may be endangered. In addition, in view of the possibilities that we have acquired and the strength we have gained in the technical and ordnance fields during the course of the war, we can get to the point where such things do not pose any threat to us. We are in a remarkable position because our ordnance industries have a strong base in all fields. This has given us more scope to utilize them better, and our hands are freer now. We can now stand more firmly on our own feet, and we do not feel threatened by such things any longer. Thus, we can embark on our program of reconstruction.

Mohtashemi on Presidency, Constitution Amendments
LD0608091989 Tehran IRNA in English 0857 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 6, IRNA—Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i must resign as president if President-Elect Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani is to take over two months earlier, the interior minister announced Sunday.

He also said that the constitutional amendments approved in the July 28 referendum were now in force.

"Legally His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i is the president until the end of his term on October 9," Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi told IRNA.

"This is unless he resigns from this post before that date and Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani reads the presidential oath in the Majlis and officially starts work."

Rafsanjani victory in the July 28 presidential election was confirmed by leader Khamene'i in a special ceremony on Thursday.

President Khamene'i began his second four-year term on October 8, 1985. After the death of Imam Khomeyni he was selected as the new leader of the Islamic Republic. He is expected to be reaffirmed as leader in Sunday's extraordinary session of the Assembly of Experts.

The meeting was called following last night's unanimous approval of the results of the constitutional referendum by the Council of Guardians. The amendments were approved with 15,963,367 votes, out of a total of 16,394,867 votes.

"The approval of the amendments to the constitution has been notified by Ayatollah Khamene'i... and from today its implementation is required by all legislative, executive and judicial bodies," Mohtashemi said.

The reformed constitution gives wider powers to the president by eliminating the post of prime minister. It also qualifies a mojtahed, or Islamic jurist, for the post of leadership without requiring him to be a marja', or paramount Islamic leader.

On the next administration, a daily paper said Hashemi-Rafsanjani should not form a coalition from names suggested by various factions with differing views, but rather pick up men who would be most sited. The TEHRAN TIMES editorial argued that coalitions were adopted under conditions of instability and disagreement in policy and party lines. "But for Iran, which in all

major respects, is a country that is politically stable and free from conflict or tensions at the higher levels of the political complex, a coalition would be incongruous and unsuitable."

The English-language daily added: "It will be more advisable... for the president to select his ministers from among men who will be best fitted to carry through and be in agreement with the president on the policies... in the fullest extent."

Musavi Praises Statements on Presidency Decree

LD0508110989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that at the cabinet meeting this morning, Prime Minister Musavi referred to the statement by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, and the statement by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of the Republic, during the ceremonies marking the confirmation of the presidency decree. He then called the positions declared by the great leader and the president as decisive and dynamic.

Mr Musavi said: The statements repudiate the insinuations by the mouthpieces of arrogance, and give us hope for the perpetuation of the life of Imam Khomeyni, as well as the revolutionary values and genuine line of the founder of the Islamic Republic.

Mr Musavi expressed the hope that the genuine line of Imam Khomeyni, which is the inalienable pattern of the pure Mohammadan Islam in the world today, would be able to provide for the progress of the Islamic revolution in serving the meek and the deprived through the new resources which have been placed at the disposal of the executive and judicial powers, as well as through the clear guidelines which the guardian of Muslims have offered.

During the cabinet session, the minister of roads and transport submitted a report on preparations for construction of a 14km highway across Urumiyeh Lake.

Also a draft bill on ending the differences stemming from the Iranian Government's loan to India's steel organization was approved.

Montazeri Congratulates Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0508080489 Tehran IRNA in English 0715 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Qom, Aug. 5, IRNA—Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri cabled a message of congratulations to Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on his election as president.

"In this crucial capacity, I hope, with divine dispensations from Almighty God you will be able to serve Islam and the revolution and the deprived and oppressed people who are the true owners of the revolution and the country," he said.

The ayatollah recalled Hashemi-Rafsanjani's campaign for the cause of Islam before and after the 1979 revolution, and the confidence entrusted upon him by the late Imam Khomeyni.

He urged the president, whose election was ratified on Thursday, to be "firm and frank" and employ sincere people to achieve Islamic aims. "(I hope) you will realize the lofty values and aims which the martyrs gave their pure lives for by being firm and frank and using experienced, committed and sincere individuals."

Montazeri resigned from deputy leadership last March after receiving harsh ctiticisms from Imam Khomeyni for his outspoken attacks against national policies.

The imam, who died on June 3, accepted his resignation and called on the ayatollah to continue as a senior teacher at the Qom Theological Center.

Defense Chiefs' Message to President on 'Selection'

LD0408222789 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Brigadier General Jalali, the defense minister; Brigadier General Hasani-Sa'di, commander of the Ground Forces; Brigadier General Sattari, commander of the Air Force; Commodore Malekzadegan, commander of the navy; and Hojjat ol-Eslam Safa'i, the representative of the supreme jurisconsult and head of the political-ideological organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran's army, have sent a joint message of congratulations on the excellent selection of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the Presidency of the Islamic Repubic of Iran. They prayed to Exalted God for his success in fulfilling the sacred aims and ideals of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, his eminence Imam Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with his deeds.

Daily on President, Problems, Measures

LD0508093889 Tehran IRNA in English 0931 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 5, IRNA—There was no need for hasty measures by the new President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to overcome domestic problems, the daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI commented Saturday.

Existing issues should be solved through fundamental planning, it stressed.

"Of course some short-term solutions would seem temporarily necessary," the daily said in its editorial.

"However... any measure whether short-term or long-term will be effective only when discriminations and deviations are prevented and profiteering is seriously countered."

Otherwise any measure would be to the advantage of profiteers and plunderers which further intensified the problems, said the daily.

"Solving economic problems would be desirable by preserving the revolutionary ideals and the nation would not only disagree with sacrificing principles for provisions of welfare or elimination of problems but would not even think about such a thing."

The daily also advised authorities not to ignore campaign against evil trends trying to damage Islamic and revolutionary culture through propagating counter-values.

Authorities should not waste even one minute to counter social corruptions and counter-values including ignorance of proper Islamic mode of dressing, it said.

Convicted Drug Traffickers Hanged in Arak

LD0408102289 Tehran IRNA in English 0802 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Arak, Central Prov., Aug. 4, IRNA—Eight drug traffickers were hanged here Friday after their sentence was confirmed by the Supreme Judicial Council. They had been found guilty of storing, transporting, selling or buying a total of 27.7 kilos of heroin and 57 kilos of opium. They were executed in front of a crowd at the city's Azadi (Freedom) Park.

More than 700 narcotics smugglers and dealers have been executed since last January in a national campaign aimed at rooting out the problem which has trapped a million Iranians.

Editorial Calls For Talks To Resolve Afghan Issue

NC0608112189 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 31 Jul 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Clear Talks Needed To Solve Afghan Problems"]

[Text] Just about enough blood has been shed in Afghanistan, but there does not seem to be any happy end in sight as yet. There could be if the solution to the problems of this still unhappy land are tackled correctly. Disunity has recently hounded and strapped the efforts of the Mujahidin who struggled for almost 10 years and very successfully convinced Soviet Russia that a foreign power can never entrench itself in that proud Muslim country.

It is a bitter fact, but even after four and a half months since the Soviet forces quit the land the Afghan Mujahidin have not been able to fulfill their hope and promise that Kabul would fall to them. Yet the struggle goes on.

Afghanistan's fate while it concerns first the people of that country, has an interest for regional countries too and for powers like the Soviet Union who are concerned about power equations in the word at large. So if there has been a delay to settle questions relating to Afghanistan, these countries too stand to blame. Iran, Pakistan and the Soviet Union regrettably have continued to follow their own lines without being able to iron out a logical solution to find an end to the civil war which has gone on for long enough now. A solution has to be found urgently and this business of brother killing brother has to stop.

Afghanistan undoubtedly belongs to the Muslim people there, who with their sacrifice in blood and with their indomitable courage have made certain they will not give up their independence. When the question of sharing power in the new Afghanistan comes up it is this which will count most as a basis for distributing responsibilities for the future of the country. There are many still in the Najib regime faithful to their homeland and passionately hold to a desire for the independence of their country. They are waiting we are sure to do whatever it may be that they conceive as a duty by their country, a debt waiting to be repaid.

As far as we can make out, the quickest solution to the Afghan imbroglio will be a joint participation of all sides involved in talks taking up and examining the various interests at stake in a spirit of selflessness and in a mood which will generously take into account the fact that it is the welfare of the Afghan people that should come uppermost. Iran, Pakistan, the Soviet Union as neighbors and outside parties most concerned in the matter and a representative section of the Afghan Mujahidin, as a main axis, should all be made to sit down to work things out in this spirit. We need not leave the Kabul regime out and if need be its participation can be discussed and accommodated. However, it is only too apparent that the Kabul regime can have nothing new to offer which the Soviet Union as its spokesman can very well do. After all the Soviets were in Afghanistan for the Kabul regime and are best qualified to speak for them.

Pakistan

Bhutto Speaks of Conspiracy To Divide Sind

BK0608155489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has said her government is making all efforts for the maintenance of peace and tranquillity all over the country, particularly in Sind, so that development activities could continue without any hindrance. She was addressing a huge public meeting at Khesana Mori near Tando Jam after laying

the foundation stone of Shahid [martyr] Gul Mohammad Omar health center this morning. The health center is being built under the People's Program.

The prime minister said the elements who hatched the conspiracy to drive Sindhi speaking population of the province out of urban centers like Karachi and Hyderabad and the non-Sindi population from the interior of the province were the enemies of the people and the nation. They want to divide Sind, but our popularly elected government would frustrate nefarious designs of such elements with the support of the masses.

Ms Benazir Bhutto stressed that all the people living in Sind have equal rights and privileges as given in the Constitution of the country. She appealed to the people to forge unity in their ranks, spoil the evil designs of the elements opposed to democracy, and work collectively in the larger interest of the country. [passage omitted]

Bhutto Party Leader in Punjab Arrested, Released

BK0708025089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] Salman Taseer, the deputy leader of the opposition [Pakistan People's Party] in the Punjab Assembly, who was arrested by the police in Lahore this morning, was granted an immediate interim bail in the afternoon by a judge of Lahore High Court, Justice Manzur Hussain Khayal. Salman Taseer was arrested as he was coming out of the sessions court where he had gone in connection with the confirmation of his bail in two cases registered against him by the police. The sessions judge has extended his bail in two cases till the 19th of this month. The session judge, after hearing arguments from the two sides, also ordered that petitioner Salman Taseer should report before the investigating officer in the two cases tomorrow and thereafter, if and when required.

Advocate Mohammad Wasi Zafer filed a habeas corpus petition before the Lahore High Court saying that the Punjab chief minister [Nawaz Sharif] bears personal acrimony against Salman Taseer because of his criticism of the chief minister and efforts to bring a no-confidence motion against him. For these reasons, the Punjab police have registered two cases against him at the behest of Nawaz Sharif and he was being falsely involved in these cases, the petition said.

It further stated that the sessions judge had, after fixing the date and time for meeting the investigating officer, adjourned the case until the 19th of this month and extended the bail of Salman Taseer until that day. This order was announced in open court in the presence of a large number of police officers.

The police gave no indication whatsoever that Salman Taseer was wanted by them in any other case. However, while Salman Taseer was inside the court and was coming out of the courtroom, he was picked up by the police force in a commando action, was beaten and abused and then thrown into a police vehicle. Later, the police whisked him away. The police also baton-charged the mob [words indistinct] that gathered at the spot.

The petition maintained that notwithstanding the bail granted by the sessions judge to Salman Taseer, he had been illegally arrested and was being unlawfully detained; he was in imminent danger of being tortured for opposing the chief minister. The petition also said that the posture adopted by the police and the way Salman Taseer was arrested and detained constitute a grave contempt of court, on which the high court and the session court should take appropriate steps.

The learned judge hearing the petition directed the advocate general of Punjab to produce detainee Salman Taseer before the court before 1300 today. As the court reassembled, the advocate general told the court that he had contacted the inspector general of police in this regard. As the detainee was not produced before the court, the learned judge again adjourned the court for some time and directed the advocate general to make efforts to produce the detainee before it. Later, when the court resumed its proceedings, it was informed that Salman Taseer had been arrested by the police in a case registered against him under the Pakistan Penal Code and the Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance. Salman Taseer was charged with delivering a speech in January this year. However, he was not produced before the court.

After hearing the arguments of the advocate general and the defense counsel, the learned judge ruled that the detainee be released under an immediate interim bail till next Wednesday [9 August], and he was directed to appear before the sessions judge on that day. The court also directed that it should be ensured that Salman Taseer was not tortured as he has been set at liberty with the pronouncement of his judgment.

Criticizes Punjab Chief

BK0708040089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Salman Taseer, the deputy leader of the opposition [Pakistan People's Party] in the Punjab Assembly, who had been granted an interim bail by the Lahore High Court yesterday, was released last night.

The Punjab Assembly's opposition leader, Rana Shaukat Mahmud, has condemned the forcible seizure of Salman Taseer—who had already been granted an extension of the interim bail—by police commandos from the court premises in Lahore yesterday. Addressing a news conference in Lahore, he alleged that Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif was using the government machinery to crush his opponents.

4 Killed, 26 Injured in Bomb Blast in Peshawar

BK0608061689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] A powerful bomb, placed in a vegetables (?warehouse), exploded at the new vegetable market of Peshawar city this morning, killing 4 people and injuring 26 others. The injured were immediately rushed to the Lady Reading Hospital. One of the injured is said to be in critical condition, while six were discharged from the hospital after receiving first aid.

Provincial Minister Visits Site

BK0608153389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] A bomb blast in the New Vegetable Market in Peshawar this morning killed 4 people and injured 26. The injured have been admitted into the Lady Reading Hospital. Six persons were discharged following treatment.

The Northwest Frontier Province chief minister, Mr Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao, inspected the site of bomb blast. Speaking on the occasion, he said some elements are trying to disrupt law and order in the province. The chief minister prayed for the salvation of souls of those killed and expressed condolences to the bereaved families. He also visited the Lady Reading Hospital and enquired about the health of the persons injured in the blast.

Two bombs exploded in the Sadar area of Rawalpindi this afternoon. The commissioner told the Radio Pakistan representative that 30 people were injured, 17 were discharged from the hospital after receiving first aid. Twelve persons have been admitted into the Cantonment General Hospital. One child is in critical condition and has been transferred to the Combined Military Hospital. According to our representative, the blasts damaged two vehicles and eight shops.

UNHCR Rejects Allegations of Drug Trafficking

BK0308130789 Hong Kong AFP in English 1252 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 3 (AFP) - The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) Thursday rejected allegations of drug trafficking in Pakistan, an official statement here said.

Refuting a Pakistan Narcotics Control Board (PNCB) report, it said the entire UNHCR group has been "erroneously associated with illegal activities" of drug trafficking in official vehicles.

The PNCB Wednesday announced that it had intercepted a UNHCR jeep carrying 15 kilograms (33 pounds) of heroin powder worth millions of dollars and arrested its lone occupant.

In a statement the U.N. agency said "the vehicle in question is neither owned nor administered by UNHCR or any other United Nations agency."

Without verifying the facts, "UNHCR and the entire group of the United Nations agencies have been erroneously associated with illegal activities," the statement said. The UNHCR cares for some three million Afghan refugees settled in Pakistan's border provinces.

The report, announced by the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP), said the PNCB and Pakistani customs agents seized the drugs on a tipoff that a UNHCR vehicle would be used to smuggle a large quantity of heroin to Punjab from the North-West Frontier Province, which borders Afghanistan. The heroin was to be smuggled for shipment abroad, the report said.

The raiding party intercepted the jeep at the highway town Hassan Abdal, 40 kilomtres (25 miles) north of here early Wednesday. According to the news agency report, the seized drug was concealed in secret cavities of the white Toyota jeep which had its original registration plate replaced with a fake one.

The agency said the vehicle's Pakistani driver was arrested and charges lodged against two people in an escort car who escaped arrest.

A UNHCR spokesman said Thursday in an interview that the agency had disposed of its old vehicles in Pakistan and donated hundreds of them to relief groups.

The spokesman did not rule out the possibility that the jeep could have been a discarded UNHCR vehicle or that smugglers could have painted it white to escape arrest by posing as U.N. relief workers.

Book on A-Bomb Program Banned, Author Arrested

BK0708115089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1102 GMT 7 Aug 89

[By Rene Slama]

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 7 (AFP)—A tabloid newspaper publisher has been arrested by the Pakistani Secret Service, and sales of his book alleging that Pakistan is building a nuclear bomb have been banned, officials said here Monday.

Zahid Malik, author of "Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan and the Islamic Bomb," was arrested Sunday outside his pro-opposition newspaper, the English-language PAKISTAN OBSERVER, the officials said.

Secret service agents then raided Mr. Malik's print shop and seized some 600 copies of the book, reporters said.

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) also ordered bookstores throughout the country to halt sales of the book.

Mr. Malik, 52, wrote in the book that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, soon after taking power last December, asked Prof. Qadeer Khan, head of a nuclear research center in Kahuta, 25 kilometers (16 miles) east of the capital, to interrupt his work and turn to developing a nuclear bomb for Pakistan.

Mr. Malik also charged that Pakistan has stolen nuclear formulas and equipment from several Western nations.

An FIA spokesman said the book, written in Urdu, "purports to give the impression that the policy of the government in relation to a sensitive and vital national project is contrary to that which is publicly stated by the Government of Pakistan."

The work "jeopardizes the peaceful (nuclear) program of the state... (and) is likely to cause grievous injury to the interest and security of Pakistan," the spokesman said.

The book "gives out very sensitive secrets and in other parts misrepresents the policy of the state on sensitive matters," he added.

Ms. Bhutto has stated repeatedly, including during recent visits to Washington and London, that Pakistan does not possess a nuclear device and does not intend to make one.

Minister of Information Javed Jabbar denied that domestic political considerations were behind Mr. Malik's arrest.

"It is a legal matter. It concerns the FIA. There are no political implications. Still, I regret the fact that a journalist has been arrested," Mr. Jabbar said.

Mr. Malik's son, Faisal, said in a statement that no warrant had been presented either for his father's arrest or for the seizure of the book, of which he said more than 5,000 copies were put on sale two months ago.

The son said he believed that authorities disliked the "independent policy" of the PAKISTAN OBSERVER, an evening paper favoring the Islamic Democratic Alliance, Pakistan's eight-party opposition coalition.

Mr. Malik is also owner of the Urdu-language paper HURMAT, published weekly here and in Copenhagen, and is assistant secretary of the Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors.

In the book, Mr. Malik also presented the theory that the air crash which took the life of former President Ziaul Haq on last August 17 may have been part of an assassination plot hatched in Paris by Pakistani and Indian diplomats.

He wrote that a member of Israel's intelligence service furnished a Pakistani Air Force officer the "device" which caused the plane's crash, in which the U.S. ambassador and several senior Pakistani military officers also died.

Mr. Malik served in the Ministry of Religious Affairs in 1975-77 during the regime of the late Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Mr. Malik's son said.

Mr. Bhutto, father of the current prime minister, was deposed by Mr. Ziaul Haq in a 1977 coup and executed two years later.

Magistrate Remands Author

BK0708155089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1534 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 7 (AFP)—Zahid Malik author of a book about Pakistan's nuclear programme, who was detained here Sunday, was remanded Monday to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) by the local district magistrate.

According to the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, Mr. Malik, 52, owner of Islamabad's only evening newspaper, THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER, was brought before the court, which authorized the FIA to carry out investigations for four days. Mr. Malik is to appear before the court again on Friday.

An FIA spokesman had stated that Mr. Malik's book, "Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan and the Islamic Bomb," was "prejudicial to the interest of the country."

Mr. Malik's newspaper failed to appear on Monday.

Sri Lanka

Talks With India on Troop Withdrawal Detailed

Tamil Council Urges Indian Role

BK0408041989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] The Tamil National Council—comprising the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], ENDLF [Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front], and TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization]—has categorically stated that India's participation is essential in any talks aimed at resolving the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. At an emergency session held in Trincomalee yesterday evening, the council said any attempt to disassociate India from the process of finding a solution to the problem amounts to striking at the very basis of the tripartite concept.

Meanwhile, in the continuing extremist violence in Sri Lanka, a monk of the Konwewa Buddhist vihar [monastery] was killed by some unidentified gunmen. He was 72.

BBC on Talks, Strike

BK0408130889 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 4 Aug 89

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] The Sri Lankan foreign minister, Ranjan Wijeratne, says India has made a new offer for the phased withdrawal of its peacekeeping force in Sri Lanka. Mr Wijeratne said at the end of a 7-day negotiating session in Delhi that India was now offering to withdraw troops at the rate of about 1,500 a week. But, he said, this was dependent on the Sri Lankan Government accepting proposals which, a correspondent for the BBC in Delhi says, are thought to include the security of Tamils in northeastern Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka itself has been brough, to a virtual standstill by a curfew and general strike called by antigovernment extremists. The military wing of the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] nationalists had called for a national day of mourning for people shot dead by the security forces in anti-Indian demonstrations a week ago. From Colombo, (Chris Nuttle).

[Begin recording] The government has been imposing an islandwide nighttime curfew for more than a week. But now the city of Colombo has been virtually shut down during the daytime by a 24-hour curfew and strike declared by the extreme nationalists. Shops, offices and factories are closed, and there is little traffic on the roads. Four people were injured when a bomb was exploded at the central bus terminus this morning. No private coaches are running and the state-operated buses are being manned by army drivers. The picture is the same in the island's main towns. The shutters are all down in Kandy in the central hill country. In Galle, in the south, troops have been breaking open shops and there are reports of looting where store owners have stayed away from their premises. An Army officer and a surgeon were killed when extremist guerrillas ambushed a patrol in Ratnapura District, east of Colombo. The nationalists have ordered a day of mourning for those who were shot dead by the security forces during protests a week ago against the presence of Indian troops on the island. Military spokesmen said 129 people were killed, but the JVP claims that more than 200 demonstrators died. [end recording]

Delhi Proposals to Colombo Noted

BK0508024889 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 5 Aug 89

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] The intensive negotiations that had been going on in Delhi for the past week between India and Sri Lanka have apparently ended without agreement. The Sri Lankan delegation will be passing on India's latest proposals on withdrawing its troops, but Mark Tully says from Delhi that Premadasa is not likely to accept them as they stand.

[Begin Mark Tully recording] The Sri Lankan delegation hoped to return with an agreement on the early withdrawal of the Indian Army. All they got was a proposal that India would withdraw its troops over a period of some 7 months once it was satisfied with security arrangements for the Tamil groups it is backing in Sri Lanka's Northeastern Province. It is very unlikely that the Sri Lankan president, Premadasa, will accept these proposals. His top priority is to reduce the pressure from the nationalist group, the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna], whose campaign of selective violence and threats is undermining the credibility of his government. The JVP has denounced President Premadasa for failing to live up to his commitment to get the Indian Army out. The speed of the proposed withdrawal would not meet the JVP's demands. They would also denounce the president if he accepted any Indian terms for the withdrawal.

The result of the talk is a setback for Rajiv Gandhi too. He had hoped it would be possible to bring the army back with honor before the forthcoming general elections.

Wijeratne: Talks 'Satisfactory'

BK0508065289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0630 GMT 5 Aug 89

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Excerpt] Colombo, Aug 5 (AFP)—Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said Saturday [5 August] he was satisfied with the week of talks he held in New Delhi on the withdrawal of Indian troops from Sri Lanka.

"It was satisfactory," the minister said when asked about his week-long discussions with various Indian leaders, including Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Mr. Wijeratne, who returned from New Delhi via Madras early Saturday, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that he would meet President Ranasinghe Premadasa later in the day to brief him about the talks.

A spokesman for the president's office said Mr. Premadasa had been in the southern town of Kataragama since Friday and was expected to return here Sunday. He said Mr. Wijeratne would meet Mr. Premadasa in Kataragama.

Mr. Wijeratne did not disclose what he planned to tell the president, but state-run television reported Friday that he was carrying a report on the New Delhi discussions for Mr. Premadasa's consideration.

Mr. Wijeratne said it had not been decided yet if he would return to New Delhi or if Indian officials would come here for further talks on pulling out the 45,000-strong Indian peace keeping force (IPKF).

An Indian spokesman said in New Delhi late Friday that the Sri Lankan delegation, which included ministers, defence officials and legal experts, "will come back to India after discussing the proposals with Mr. Premadasa."

The Indian high commissioner (ambassador) here, Lakhan Lal Mehrotra, who also flew to New Delhi for the talks, is scheduled to return to Colombo on Monday, diplomatic sources said.

The presidential spokesman said that besides Mr. Wijeratne, others who went to India were expected to meet the president in Kataragama, a pilgrimage site for members of both the Sinhalese and Hindu communities. [passage omitted]

Delegation Returns From Delhi 5 Aug

BK0508120189 Colombo International Service in English
1045 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] A high-level Sri Lankan delegation led by the foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, arrived in Colombo early this morning from New Delhi. The acting minister of foreign affairs, John Amaratunge, and several senior officials were present at the airport to greet the Sri Lankan delegation.

The delegation had detailed discussions with the Indian external affairs minister, the minister of defense, and other officials, besides calling on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, on two occasions.

Senior Minister on Talks, Security

BK0508140089 Colombo Domestic Service in English
1245 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] The minister of agriculture, food, and cooperatives, Lalith Athulathmudali, said that the security of the people in the north and the east is a matter which is of primary concern to the government and the people of Sri Lanka. He added that the security situation would really be assured only when everyone agrees to stop hostilities.

In an exclusive interview with the South Asia service of the BBC, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali said that the government has agreed to make provisions for the setting up of a (?special) police force at the provincial level under the IGP [Inspector General of Police] of Sri Lanka.

Asked by the interviewer whether the government was prepared to see implementation of such measures, the minister pointed out that Parliament has passed the necessary laws and they have to be implemented.

The government, he said, will not change laws already passed in Parliament.

Referring to the devolution of power to the provincial council, Mr Athulathmudali said that under the 13th amendment provisions were made to set up a police force and a judiciary. He added that if there were any more suggestions regarding the devolution of powers, (?again) they can be considered for inclusion in the provincial council administrative machinery.

He pointed out that a two-third majority is required to introduce an amendment to the Constitution.

Answering a question on security in the event of an Indian troop pullout, the minister said he will not underestimate the Sri Lankan Army's strength and capabilities.

Cabinet To Consider Proposals

BK0608082089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0644 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Colombo, Aug 6 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Cabinet will hold a special meeting Monday [7 August] to study New Delhi's proposals on withdrawing its 45,000 troops from the island, Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said Sunday.

"Everything is up to parliament, cabinet and the president," Mr. Wijeratne said, a day after returning from New Delhi where he held week-long discussions with Indian leaders including Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

He told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that he had discussed the proposals with Mr. Premadasa in the southern temple town of Kataragama for four hours Saturday and it had been decided to hold an emergency cabinet session.

The Sri Lankan Cabinet normally meets every Wednesday night.

Mr. Wijeratne, who is also the junior defence minister, flew to New Delhi on July 29 after India agreed to resume a phased withdrawal of the troops deployed in Sri Lanka's Tamil-majority Northeast under a 1987 bilateral peace pact.

The minister declined to say what proposals India had advanced or discuss the immediate reaction of Mr. Premadasa, who is due here later Sunday.

But sources close to the ruling United National Party (UNP) said India had told Sri Lanka that it would pull back 1,500 soldiers a week if Colombo agreed to devolve adequate autonomy to a Tamil-dominated provincial government in the island's Northeast and end "Sinhalese colonisation" of Tamil areas.

The Sinhalese are Sri Lanka's majority community.

An official communique here late Saturday said Mr. Wijeratne had given a report "on the outcome of the talks with the Government of India on the withdrawal of the IPKF, cessation of hostilities and other relevant issues."

The Indian Army contingent in Sri Lanka is called the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF). Since October 1987, it has been attempting to disarm the dominant Tamil militant group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

"The president, after examining all the aspects of the report, thought it appropriate to seek the views of the cabinet of ministers and members of parliament on the issues involved before making his decision," it added.

The Indian high commissioner (ambassador) to Colombo, Lakhan Lal Mehrotra, also flew to New Delhi for the Indo-Sri Lankan talks and is scheduled to return Monday.

Also expected to fly back Monday is Annamalai Varadaraja Perumal, chief minister of Sri Lanka's Northeastern Province who is now in New Delhi holding talks with Indian leaders.

The sources said Colombo had taken it as "a discourteous move" by India to have invited Mr. Varadaraja Perumal when a high-level Sri Lankan team led by Mr. Wijeratne was holding talks in New Delhi. [passage omitted]

Officials View Security, Devolution of Powers

Tamil Leaders Comment

BK0508161189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] The chief minister of the Northeastern Provincial Council of Sri Lanka, Mr A. Varadaraja Perumal, now in New Delhi, has had discussions with the Indian Government. Later, Mr Perumal said he understands that India has been assured by Sri Lanka that the process of devolution of powers to the provincial council will be accelerated.

The Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization [TELO] of Sri Lanka says that any settlement reached without ensuring the security of the Tamils and devolving adequate powers to the Northeastern Provincial Council will not lead to a lasting solution on the ethnic issue.

In an interview with the AIR [All India Radio] correspondent in Trincomalee, the TELO leader, Mr Selvam, said India continues to have a responsibility for the Tamils as a signatory to the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement. He regretted that the security of the Sri Lankan Tamils still remained a question mark even after 2 years of signing of the peace agreement.

Mr Selvam renewed his appeal to all democratic minded people to unite and strengthen the hands of the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in his continued efforts to protect the Tamil interest within a united Sri Lanka.

Perumal on Devolution, Pullout

BK0608041089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] Mr Varadaraja Perumal, the chief minister of Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka, says the Sri Lankan delegation which visited Delhi earlier this week had assured that the process of devolution of power to the Northeastern Provincial Council will be accelerated.

In an interview to UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA], Mr Perumal, who was in New Delhi for consultations with the Indian leaders, said that the assurance was conveyed to India by the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, heading a high-level Sri Lankan delegation during the week-long talks. Mr Perumal said that this was conveyed to him by the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, during their discussions.

Mr Perumal added that the devolution of power is the key to the tangle between the two countries, including the withdrawal of the [Indian] peacekeeping force. Mr Perumal said they would wait for a reasonable time for Sri Lanka to fulfill its promise.

Violence Continues as 900 CRPF Depart for India

BK0608160189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] The former Sri Lankan president, Mr Junius Jayewardene, has suggested the formation of a national government as the best way to solve the country's problems. In an interview to newsmen, he said the national government should comprise the ruling United National Party and all other opposition parties.

At least 29 persons have been killed in continuing violence in the island country since last night. According to official sources five bodies were found on the outskirts of Colombo this morning, while two businessmen were killed at a shopping complex in the city. Violent incidents have also been reported from other parts of the country.

Meanwhile, about 900 CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] personnel left Sri Lanka today for home. They are returning to India after 2 years of service in the northern Jaffna Peninsula.

AFP Updates Strike Situation, Violence 4 Aug

BK0408144889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1430 GMT 4 Aug 89

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 4 (AFP)—Anti-government militants shot dead two soldiers Friday, including an officer, during a rebel-sponsored general strike that crippled virtually all of Sri Lanka, officials said.

Suspected members of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, People's Liberation Front) opened fire on an army patrol in southern Ratnapura District, instantly killing an officer and another soldier, military officials here said.

JVP activists also exploded two bombs here Friday, a military spokesman said, while 18 people were killed late Thursday in other violence in the strife-torn island nation.

The first bomb was flung at a bus terminal, injuring four people, and the second was thrown at a private bus which was operating despite the strike call by the JVP, the spokesman said. No one was wounded in the second attack.

The one-day general strike was called by the JVP to mourn the deaths of more than 130 people in JVP-sponsored anti-India demonstrations last week and the continued presence in Sri Lanka of some 45,000 Indian troops.

The Indian troops have been deployed in Sri Lanka under a 1987 bilateral agreement aimed at ending the island's bloody Tamil separatist campaign. The JVP bitterly opposes the accord and wants it scrapped. The strike crippled life in Sri Lanka, barring the Tamil north-east where the Indian troops are deployed, shutting shops and businesses, offices, banks and industrial establishments.

By late afternoon, Colombo had a near deserted look, with almost no public transport on the roads. Private cars which were seen on the roads in the day largely disappeared by evening.

Hundreds of people took to the streets across the island July 28, chanting anti-India and anti-government slogans. Security forces opened fire in several towns, killing 130 and injuring hundreds. Human rights groups and opposition parties have put the death toll at nearly 200.

Barring a handful of government and private buses and scooter-taxis, there was no public transport Friday in Colombo or in any of the districts populated by the majority Sinhalese community, residents said.

The Sinhalese form the main support base for the JVP, which has been blamed for hundreds of deaths during the past two years and has repeatedly turned down peace offers by the government.

Military officials and residents said life in most major towns was similarly hit, mainly due to lack of public and private transport.

"Everything is closed here, absolutely everything," said a resident of Kandy, a central district town and JVP bastion. He said there was no work Friday at Kandy's famous tea plantations.

In Colombo, some government buses were plying under armed escort. Most were packed to capacity.

Troops, in particular naval commandos, were seen constantly patrolling Colombo in jeeps and in South African-made personnel carriers. At some points, motorists were checked for national identity cards.

Five JVP activists shot dead a leading Buddhist monk, Kottikawatte Saddhatissa, at his temple outside Colombo shortly before an eight-hour night curfew went into effect across the island Thursday, officials said.

The monk, known as one of the finest preachers of Buddhism, had recently appeared on national television, praising President Ranasinghe Premadasa's India policy.

Since New Delhi resumed withdrawing its troops from Sri Lanka July 29, a series of religious and political leaders have been featured on state-owned television praising the president.

Also late Thursday, security forces opened fire on a car which failed to stop at a checkpoint in Colombo, killing the wife of a government official, a military spokesman said.

Military officials said eight bodies, their hands tied behind their backs, were found in Kandy late Thursday. Five more bodies were found in neighbouring Kegalle District. All of them were believed to be JVP activists.

In southern Weligama, security forces shot dead a curfew violator while unidentified men dragged two youths from their houses and shot them dead, the officials said.

Security forces in Sri Lanka are armed with shoot-on-sight orders since a state of emergency was imposed in the country June 20. Since Sunday, there has been a curfew every night.

LTTE: 14 Indian Soldiers, 25 Civilians Killed
BK0408160389 Hong Kong AFP in English 1554 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Colombo, Aug 4 (AFP)—Fourteen Indian soldiers and 25 civilians have died in fierce fighting in Sri Lanka's north since Wednesday, the island's dominant Tamil group said Friday.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said in a statement received here from London that its guerrillas killed the 14 soldiers while Indian troops shot dead the civilians in revenge. The report could not be immediately verified by the Indian High Commission (Embassy) here.

The LTTE said its militants killed eight Indian soldiers at Valvettiturai, on the extreme tip of the island's Tamil-populated north, in the fighting on Wednesday. Several others were wounded, it added.

"Following the incident, the Indian forces went on a wild rampage and massacred 25 innocent civilians in the village," the statement said.

It further stated that LTTE guerrillas ambushed and killed four more soldiers in the same area Wednesday and two at Paranthan Thursday. [passage omitted]

300 Subversives Held; Arms, Ammunition Recovered
BK0608112289 Colombo International Service in English
1045 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] The security forces and the police continued their countrywide combing operations to maintain law and order. Over 300 suspected subversives had been taken in for questioning by them within the last 24 hours. A large quantity of arms and ammunition has been recovered in the Colombo, Gampaha, Deraniyagala, and Moneragala areas.

(?Two) civilians and two security personnel were killed by subversives. Twelve civilians and 4 security personnel sustained injuries during subversive attacks.

In the Gampaha District, an improved explosive device was found fixed in the door of a large warehouse belonging to a leading Colombo firm. This was defused by the bomb disposal squad.

At (Ratanbura), unidentified gunmen fired on a security forces mobile patrol killing an officer and a sergeant.

Rebels Call For Strike; 29 Killed in Violence
BK0608121289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1148 GMT 6 Aug 89

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 6 (AFP)—A radical group Sunday [6 August] called for a two-day general strike in Sri Lanka as fresh violence claimed 29 more lives on the island nation.

Residents said posters from the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) have appeared in towns calling for a general strike from Monday to protest the government's failure to send back the thousands of Indian troops on the island.

The radical Sinhalese JVP seeks to overthrow the Sri Lankan Government and has been blamed for hundreds of killings since New Delhi and Colombo signed an accord in 1987 that brought Indian troops to the island in a bid to end a Tamil separatist campaign in the northeast.

The hand-written posters, which have come up in many towns including Badulla, Kegalle, Kandy and Matara, also accuse the government of lying to Sri Lankans about their pullout plans in consultation with New Delhi, the residents said.

It is the second such protest since Friday, when a general strike held to mourn the killing of more than 130 anti-India, anti-government demonstrators by security forces a week earlier crippled most of Sri Lanka.

The latest protest call came as the government announced the deaths of 29 people in continuing violence in the island.

A government communique said that along with an unspecified number of security personnel, 25 civilians and three "subversives", an official euphemism for the JVP, had been killed in the country since early Saturday. It did not give a break down of the death toll.

But military sources said security forces found bodies of five youths on the Mount Lavinia beach here Sunday and five more at Talatuoya, near Kandy, Saturday. All of them had bullet wounds.

Residents near Mount Lavinia, a popular beach resort, said they had heard gunfire in rapid succession an hour before dawn Sunday. The bodies were found sprawled on the beach by police and early morning walkers.

All 10 victims were believed to be members of the JVP, which bitterly opposes the Indo-Sri Lankan accord.

Under the agreement, which the JVP calls a "sellout", India has some 45,000 troops in Sri Lanka's Tamil-majority northeast, where they have been trying to disarm Tamil guerrillas since October 1987.

On Saturday, unidentified gunmen, believed to be from the JVP, killed two businessmen at the main shopping plaza at Maharagama town, 12 kilometers (7.5 miles) from here, military sources said.

In other incidents Saturday, "subversives" bombed a police patrol at Kadawata, near here, a military spokesman said. No one was wounded in the attack.

Police and troops rounded up 750 youths across the country during cordon-and-search operations Saturday, the communique said, adding 59 of them were "questioned under strict security". It gave no further details.

Security forces carry out similar operations almost every day to seek out JVP suspects.

Foreign Minister Ranjan Wjeratne returned here after week-long discussions with Indian leaders, including Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, over a pullout of the Indian troops and other matters related to the accord.

A set of proposals brought by Mr. Wijeratne from New Delhi regarding the troop withdrawal was submitted to President Ranasinghe Premadasa Saturday and is to be examined by the Cabinet Monday.

India has reportedly offered to take back the troops as long as Colombo devolves adequate autonomy to a provincial government in the Tamil northeast and stops "Sinhalese colonisation" of Tamil areas.

The Sinhalese constitute the majority community in Sri Lanka.

The JVP is violently anti-India and was widely held responsible for the ambush of an Indian Army patrol in eastern Trincomalee District last month in which 18 soldiers were killed.